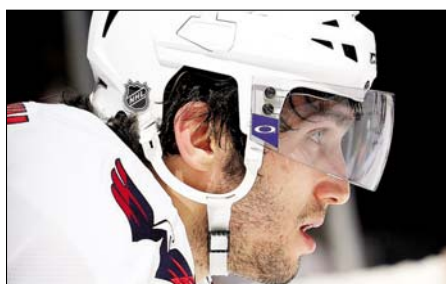


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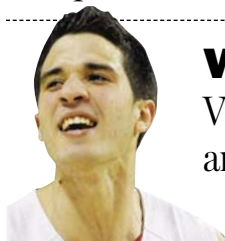


BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Alex Ovechkin is a reserve in the All-Star Game.

All-Star Debate: Is NHL pushing Ovechkin enough? | **13**

Va. Tech Killing: Student decapitated at school cafe | **10**



What a Hush: Vasquez's mouth an issue for UMd. vs. Duke | **14**

ENTERTAINMENT

Pan for Gold: Oscar contenders are announced, with *'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button'* scoring the most nominations. Plus, 'Waltz With Bashir.'

>> 18-26



Clinton Takes Reins at State Department



MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

OPENING DAY: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is greeted by a cheering crowd of nearly 1,000 people as she arrives for her first day of work at the State Department Thursday. Clinton vowed to boost morale and then named former Senate majority leader George Mitchell as a special envoy to the Mideast.

Obama Orders Gitmo Closed

In reversing Bush policies, president forbids use of torture

WASHINGTON | President Obama moved quickly Thursday to reshape U.S. national-security policy, ordering the Guantanamo Bay prison camp closed within a year, forbidding the harshest treatment of terror suspects and naming new envoys to the Middle East and Afghanistan-Pakistan.

"We have no time to lose," he said at the State Department as he welcomed newly confirmed Secretary of State Hillary Rodham

Clinton to help him forge what he called "a new era of American leadership" in the world. He said his administration is committed to lead. "We can no longer afford drift, and we can no longer afford delay, nor can we cede ground to those who seek destruction," he said.

On his second full day in office, Obama moved to reverse some of the most contentious policies of his predecessor, George W. Bush.

By ordering shut the prison camp at

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, closing any remaining CIA secret prisons overseas and banning harsh interrogation practices, Obama said he was signaling that the U.S. would confront global violence without sacrificing "our values and our ideals."

"First, I can say without exception or equivocation that the United States will not torture," he said. "Second, we will close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and determine how to deal with those who have been held there." (AP)



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FRIDAY
52 | 34



SATURDAY
44 | 24



SUNDAY
33 | 22

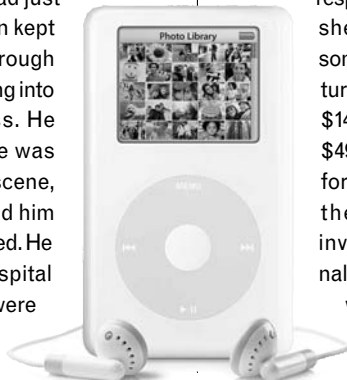
TODAY: Partly sunny and increasingly warmer; a breezy evening | **38**

eyeOpeners

CAR SAFETY

Wait, This Isn't the Demolition Derby?

Authorities said an Oldsmar, Fla., man crashed into a parked pickup truck, a business, a fence and a tree before he finally landed in the Pinellas County Jail. The 42-year-old man left a liquor store Tuesday night, climbed into his car and backed into the truck. He then rammed the truck through the front window of the business he had just left. Then, the man kept driving, plowing through a fence and crashing into a vacant business. He hit a tree while he was trying to flee the scene, and witnesses held him until deputies arrived. He was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. (AP)



BARTERING

Creative, Not Corrupt

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is investigating an incident in which a California woman said she was forced to use her iPod as payment for a cab ride. Natalie Lenhart, 20, of Sacramento took a cab to the airport in early December, but when she tried to pay, her credit card was declined. The driver called 911, and Port Authority police responded. Lenhart was told she had to give the driver some compensation, so she turned over the iPod, worth \$140, to pay her estimated \$49 fare. A spokeswoman for the Port Authority said the incident was being investigated by the internal affairs office. The story was first reported by the New York Post. (AP/EXPRESS)



JEFF PACHOUD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ADORABLE

Livin' on A Bear

Only 17 specimens of *Propithecus coronatus* exist in captivity. Better known as the Madagascar lemur (or "Awww-www"), these animals are the world's smallest primates — and they're being wiped out in their native habitat by hunters who sell them as a culinary delicacy. This newborn, named Tahina (which means "needs to be protected" in Malagasy), will be raised by veterinarians and this substitute mother-teddy bear at her home in eastern France's Besancon Zoo. (EXPRESS)

CAR SAFETY 2: THE REVENGE

Just Take the Ticket

A suspect who ran away from a traffic stop on Wednesday chose the wrong place to hide when he slipped under

a parked truck. An officer stopped a 26-year-old man in west Phoenix just before 7 a.m. after he ran a red light. The man gave the officer his license, then ran away and disappeared behind a convenience store. As the officer

searched for him, the driver of the moving truck got back into his truck and started to drive away, running over the suspect. The officer stopped the truck and called for help for the suspect, who complained of back pain. (AP)

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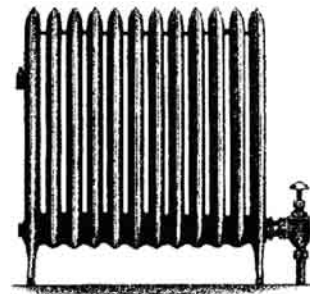
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RARE SEQUENCE: A Nebraska Lottery official says there was no mistake: The same three numbers in Nebraska's Pick 3 lottery were drawn two nights in a row. Computers randomly produced the numbers 1, 9 and 6 on Monday and Tuesday. The odds of such an occurrence? One in a million.

Nation

In Brief



Emergency personnel work the scene of a van crash Thursday in New York.

NEW YORK Van Hits Group Walking To Day Care, Kills 2 Kids

A delivery van hit a group of children walking from a library back to their day care center in New York's busy Chinatown district Thursday, killing two and seriously injuring a third, authorities said. Bellevue Hospital treated 14 of the children for minor injuries, according to spokesman David Zackin. The crash occurred around 11:30 a.m. as the children walked about two blocks through the busy area. (AP)

LOUISVILLE, KY.

High School Football Coach Is Indicted in Player's Death

A Kentucky high school football coach was charged Thursday with reckless homicide in the death of a player who collapsed at practice as temperatures soared. A grand jury indicted David Jason Stinson in the death of Max Gilpin. Stinson was directing practice Aug. 20 when the heat index reached 94 degrees and the 15-year-old collapsed. (AP)

President Obama Wasting No Time

Commander in chief is moving quickly to overturn Bush policies

WASHINGTON | President Obama is executing the clean break from the Bush administration that he promised in his campaign and his inaugural address, with a dizzying series of events highlighting openness, inclusiveness and ethics.

The man known for speaking so eloquently now seems hellbent on doing things, dispensing a flurry of executive orders on his first full day in office Wednesday, even if he had only just seized the levers of government and his top aides had yet to turn on their computers.

Whereas former president George W. Bush and his vice president were known for secrecy and tightly held decisions, Obama issued federal worker guidelines that he said will make government "transparent, so that the American people can know exactly what decisions are being made" and "how they're being made."



President Obama signs a series of executive orders, including one that orders the closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, on Thursday in the Oval Office.

Where Bush took extraordinary steps to detain and interrogate foreigners deemed "enemy combatants," Obama readied plans to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year and end military trials of suspects held there.

And if that weren't enough symbolism, he opened the White House to visitors a day after its previous occupant left for Texas.

It's hardly surprising that a Democrat who ran against Bush's unpopular policies would change course.

But the speed at which Obama is moving, and the sharpness with which he outlined his differences on Tuesday, are notable in a city known

The Mac Is Back

→ Sen. John McCain returned to his rabble-rousing roots this week, assuming his old role as one of the more independent and unpredictable Senate members. | **A Section**

IN The Washington Post

for snail-paced policymaking and rhetorical obfuscation.

The new president's biggest challenges, of course, lie ahead. For his first days in office, however, he would have been hard-pressed to make a bigger show of delivering on campaign promises.

"What an opportunity we have to change this country," Obama said.

After two years of nonstop campaigning, now he can be one of the "doers, the makers of things" he hailed in his inauguration speech Tuesday. CHARLES BABINGTON (AP)

HEARSAY | IMPEACHMENT TRIAL



"What the Senate and the House and Legislature is trying to do is to thwart the will of the people and remove a governor ... without due process."

—ILL. GOV. ROD BLAGOJEVICH, WHO SAYS HIS UPCOMING IMPEACHMENT TRIAL IS A "SHAM" BECAUSE IT WON'T INCLUDE WITNESSES. BLAGOJEVICH IS ACCUSED OF ABUSING HIS POWER AS GOVERNOR.

Panel OKs Geithner's Nomination

WASHINGTON | The Senate Finance Committee on Thursday cleared the nomination of Timothy Geithner as U.S. treasury secretary despite unhappiness over his mistakes in paying his taxes.

The committee approved the nomination on an 18-5 vote, sending it to the full Senate for a vote

either Friday or next week. President Barack Obama is hoping for quick approval so that the point man for the administration's economic rescue effort can begin work.

All five of the "no" votes came from Republicans, including the top party member of the panel, Sen. Charles Grassley. (AP)



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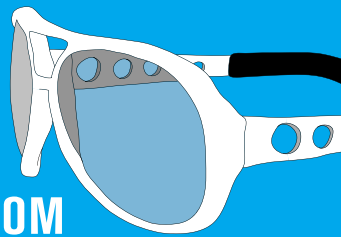
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Nation

4.6

The number of people, in millions, currently drawing unemployment benefits in the United States, according to Labor Department statistics released on Thursday.

Kennedy's Out, but Why?

JFK's daughter drops N.Y. Senate bid with no formal explanation

ALBANY, N.Y. | Caroline Kennedy withdrew her Senate bid because of a personal matter unrelated to her ill uncle, rejecting the governor's attempt to get her to reconsider, a person who worked closely with her said Thursday. Kennedy discussed withdrawing from the race with Gov. David Paterson on Wednesday, and Paterson asked her to reconsider for 24 hours, the person said.

But by 11 p.m. Wednesday, the associate said, Kennedy decided she

couldn't take the job if appointed, and she issued a statement shortly after midnight saying she was withdrawing.



Kennedy

according to the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Kennedy, 51, the daughter of former president John F. Kennedy, emerged as a front-runner to replace Hillary Clinton in the Senate. But there were questions about her expe-

rience and her reluctance to answer questions about her finances.

With no official explanations from the governor or from Kennedy, political observers were still wondering whether she bowed out on her own, or whether the governor had decided to pick someone else.

Doug Muzzio, a political science professor at Baruch College, called Kennedy's withdrawal "bizarre and ultimately embarrassing" to her and Paterson.

State Sen. Malcolm Smith, the Democratic majority leader in Albany, said Thursday that Paterson told him he still plans to announce a Senate appointment by Saturday.

MICHAEL GORMLEY (AP)

DOVER, FLA. | FREEZE-FRAME



CHRIS O'NEARA/AP

STILL FRESH: Icicles cling to strawberries in a field early Thursday morning. Strawberry farmers in west-central Florida sprayed water over their berries to create a protective coat of ice as temperatures overnight dipped into the low 20s.

Neo-Nazi Group Adopts a Highway

KANSAS CITY, MO. | A neo-Nazi group has joined the state's "Adopt-A-Highway" volunteer litter pickup program, taking advantage of a free speech court fight won four years ago by the Ku Klux Klan.

The Springfield unit of the National Socialist Movement has

committed to cleaning up trash along a half-mile section of Highway 160 near the Springfield city limits.

The state says it had no way to reject the group's application. A 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling arising from a similar effort by the

Ku Klux Klan says membership in the Adopt-A-Highway program can't be denied because of a group's political beliefs.

"It's a First Amendment thing, and we can't discriminate as long as they pick up the trash," said Bob Edwards, a spokesman for the transportation department's office in Springfield. (AP)

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Time for tea

You can't come to London without indulging in the famous tradition of Afternoon Tea. A great place to start is The Lanesborough Hotel, awarded Best Afternoon Tea in London 2008. There are plenty of quirky options too, like the fashionable Pret a Portea at The Berkeley Hotel or the healthy alternatives at Afternoon D-light at The Metropolitan.



*\$1.5 : £1 at time of press

Insider tip: Spoil yourself at one of London's 45 Michelin starred restaurants. There are great value deals to be had at lunch or pre-theatre fixed menus.



Explore the city

London has a variety of neighborhoods and attractions and where better to start than one of the eight Royal Parks in the capital. Head to Greenwich Park for the scenic views, or St James for the great atmosphere around Buckingham Palace, especially during the Changing of the Guard ceremonies.

Another great place to view the city is from the River Thames. Jump on either a City Cruise or Thames Clipper and float leisurely past iconic attractions like the Tower of London and the London Eye.

Insider tip: If you have an Oyster Card to use on public transport, you get a discount on London river boat tickets.

Art for everyone

London has over 200 free attractions including popular museums and galleries such as: Tate Britain, Victoria and Albert Museum, British Museum and National Portrait Gallery.

London has always been central to the world's art scene. Areas such as Mayfair and Hoxton are littered with prestigious art galleries, but many of those who wish to buy art nowadays tend to visit fairs. You don't need to be in the A-list crowd to attend, just come along to enjoy the festive and altogether fabulous, arty atmosphere.



Insider tip: Change your dollars commission free at Thomas Cook foreign exchange branches in London. All you need is a voucher that is downloadable at visitlondon.com. You'll also receive a discount booklet worth £100 to help save on various London attractions.

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Karthik Ramamurthy,
Hotel Manager,
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Another great thing about the location is that it is so close to the British

Museum. The British Museum, is a really popular attraction and there is so much to see there, it's easy to get lost as you explore all the different rooms.

My favorite London attraction is the Tate Modern, located in a former power plant along the South Bank of the Thames; the giant space lends itself perfectly to contemporary art. It's also one of London's free attractions — so you can just pop in whenever the mood takes you!



For full details of cultural events and activities in London and more tips on visiting London log on to visitlondon.com

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World

326

The number of people who complained about atheist posters on about 800 buses in London that read, "There's probably no God." A British watchdog group ruled Wednesday that the campaign does not breach advertising rules, Agence France-Presse said.

In Brief



Caterpillars like these in Shankpalai, Liberia, are prompting villagers to flee.

ROME Villagers Flee Caterpillar Hordes in Northern Liberia

Hordes of voracious caterpillars are destroying crops and prompting terrified villagers to flee their homes in northern Liberia in what is described as the West African country's worst plague in 30 years, a U.N. agency said Thursday. The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said the 1-inch-long caterpillars are advancing in the tens of millions. The invasion may spread to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast unless it is quickly contained. (AP)

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL 813 Arrested in Operation Against Fugitives in State

Brazil police say they have arrested 813 people in an operation against fugitives across Brazil's most populous state. Police said in a statement on Thursday that nearly 150 of the captured suspects fled after being released from prison temporarily to spend Christmas at home. (AP)



A Palestinian climbs out of a smuggling tunnel that runs under the border between Egypt and Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Thursday.

Smugglers Return to Gaza

Crews fix tunnels that link territory to Egypt, sneak in food and fuel

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP | After shoveling sand from their tunnel Thursday, the smugglers hoisted the prized cargo out of the narrow shaft: bags of potato chips — a minor luxury for Gazans tired of bland U.N. humanitarian rations.

All around them, other smuggling crews were getting merchandise flowing again through dozens of similar tunnels only days after

a cease-fire in Israel's devastating offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The tunnels linking Gaza and Egypt are back in business, despite the hundreds of tons of bombs and missiles that Israeli troops rained down on them.

The air reeked from spills of newly smuggled fuel being poured into plastic barrels as winches powered by noisy generators hauled more goods out of the wood-lined openings in the ground.

Their fast recovery underlines the difficulty of stopping the smuggling and reinforces Israel's fears

that Gaza's Hamas rulers will use the tunnel network to bring in weapons to rearm after the offensive.

"I fixed the damage in three days. We're functional since this morning," said Abu Wahda, who refused to be identified by anything but his nickname.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said Thursday that Israel is willing to reopen hostilities if the bombings weren't enough to stop the smuggling. "If we need to do additional military operations to stop smuggling, it will be done," she told Israel Radio. ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU (AP)

U.S. Envoy Warns on Iraq Exit

Crocker says hasty troop drawdown risks bolstering al-Qaeda

BAGHDAD | A hasty departure of U.S. troops from Iraq would carry severe risks, including bolstering al-Qaeda and threatening Iraqi progress toward a functioning society, the outgoing U.S. ambassador said Thursday.

Ambassador Ryan Crocker spoke to reporters a day after he and the top U.S. commander in Iraq briefed President Obama on the situation in Iraq.



Crocker

Crocker, who is retiring after a 30-year diplomatic career, declined to say what he and Gen. Ray Odierno told the president. But he noted that Obama was committed to a responsible pullout of the U.S. force.

"A precipitous withdrawal runs some very severe risks," Crocker said, including a possible revival of al-Qaeda and encouraging "neighbors with less than benign intentions" to influence events in Iraq.

He said that al-Qaeda had been "much weakened," but "as long as they can cling to some handhold here, they are going to keep trying to ... fight their way back." ROBERT H. REID (AP)

Hopes High for U.S.-Cuba Relations

Reconciliation seems possible as Castros are upbeat about Obama

HAVANA | Raul Castro says President Obama seems like a good guy, and his brother Fidel says he's certain of Obama's honesty. The new U.S. president wants to sit down and negotiate, and is in a better position to do so than any other since Eisenhower.

But making up is hard to do. To

restore relations and end the U.S. embargo, Obama would have to drop demands for democracy on Cuba, or Cuba would have to accept them — both unlikely scenarios.

Never since a young Fidel Castro traveled to the United States in 1959 have hopes for U.S.-Cuba relations been higher, nor the obstacles to closer relations fewer. Among the positive signs:

→ Fidel Castro handed the presidency to his brother Raul in 2006, removing a symbolic hurdle to ties.

→ A stream of Latin-American leaders have visited Havana in recent weeks, and the region is beginning to speak with one voice against the U.S. embargo.

→ And the Castros, who disliked former president George W. Bush, actually seem to like Obama.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez was convinced of this after meeting with the elder Castro Wednesday, telling reporters that Fidel called Obama an honest man — "un hombre sincero." NIKO PRICE (AP)

PAKISTAN | SHEEP ON A HOG



THE NEED FOR SPEED: A Pakistani man carries two sheep as he rides a motorcycle on a road on the outskirts of Islamabad, Pakistan, on Thursday.

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Directions: I-66 West to I-81 North to Exit 307 (Rt. 277). At the end of the exit, turn RIGHT on Rt. 277 for approximately 1.5 miles to a left on Warner Dr. Take a right onto Tasker Rd (Rt. 642) then take the first right into the community. Model home on right.

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World



Chinese parents and their babies wait to be seen by doctors at a hospital in Hangzhou, China, in September after the babies drank milk tainted with melamine.

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2 Face Death in China Milk Crisis

Court sentences dairy workers for roles in baby formula scandal

SHIJIAZHUANG, CHINA | A Chinese court sentenced two men to death and a dairy boss to life in prison Thursday for their roles in producing and selling infant formula tainted with melamine, a deadly industrial chemical added to watered-down milk in order to fool inspectors and increase profits.

The swift trial and harsh sentences show Beijing's resolve in tackling the country's stubborn food safety problems and an eagerness by the communist leadership to move past the embarrassing scandal.

With six babies confirmed dead and about 300,000 others nationwide suffering kidney stones and other problems from drinking melamine-laced formula, public shock has turned to simmering anger since the contamination was exposed in September.

Many Chinese are suspicious that high-level pressures for a successful Beijing Olympics in August made people aware of the crisis afraid to speak out, even as babies were dying.

The dairy boss sentenced Thursday, Tian Wenhua, has admitted she knew of problems with her company's products for months before informing authorities.

Many Chinese are suspicious that people aware of the scandal were afraid to speak out about it.

Investigations showed that middlemen who sold milk to dairy companies such as Sanlu Group Co. — the dairy at the center of the crisis — were watering down raw milk, then mixing in melamine to make it appear to have a higher protein content.

One of those middlemen, Geng Jinping, who supplied hundreds of tons of melamine-tainted milk to Sanlu, was sentenced to death. Also condemned was Zhang Yujun, who ran a workshop that produced melamine-tainted powder branded as protein-enriching. ANITA CHANG (AP)

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Tysons Corner is an unincorporated area in Fairfax County, Virginia, near Washington, D.C. between McLean, Virginia and Vienna, Virginia along the Capital Beltway (I-495). Recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as a census-designated place, the community's population was 18,540 as of the 2000 census.

It is home to Tysons Corner Center, a super-regional shopping mall, and to a second, more upscale mall called... [READ MORE >>](#)



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Local

CONSOLATION: The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies says ticket holders who were blocked from entering the swearing-in ceremony will receive commemorative inaugural items. Thousands of ticket holders were kept waiting in a tunnel below the National Mall on Tuesday.



WASHINGTON | ABORTION FOES MARCH FOR LIFE



LANDMARK DECISION: Abortion opponents gather for a rally on the National Mall on Thursday before the March for Life to the Supreme Court to mark the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

Fatal Stabbing at Va. Tech

Police: 22-year-old graduate student was decapitated at a cafe

A 22-year-old graduate student who had arrived on campus at Virginia Tech just two weeks ago was decapitated with what university officials said appeared to be a kitchen knife at a cafe on campus Wednesday night.

Officials at a news conference Thursday said they waited to release the grisly details of her murder until they could contact a translator and notify her mother in China.

"It was quite gruesome," said Virginia Tech spokesman Larry Hincker, describing the scene. "We felt that it was important for us to do next-of-kin notification before

we released that fact."

Xin Yang, 22, a graduate student from Beijing, had arrived on campus Jan. 8 to begin studying accounting in the Pamplin College of Business, officials said.



Yang

Yang, a resident of the Graduate Life Center, was killed at the Au Bon Pain restaurant on the center's first floor about 7 p.m. Wednesday. Another graduate student, Haiyang Zhu, 25, from Ningbo, China, has been charged with first-degree murder and is being held without bond at the Montgomery County jail.

Officials said Zhu had been a graduate student at Tech since

the fall. He was a Ph.D. student studying agricultural and applied economics. Officials said the two clearly knew each other. Records indicate that Yang listed both her mother and Zhu as her emergency contacts. Police are still investigating the nature of their relationship, Hincker said.

"The suspect is in custody, and the nature of the incident points to an isolated, very personal tragedy," Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger wrote in an open letter this morning to the campus community. "Our hearts go out to the victim and her family. An act of violence like this one brings back memories of the April 16 tragedy and I have no doubt that many of us feel especially distraught."

BRIGID SCHULTE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Md. Juvenile Data Sharing Proposed

UPPER MARLBORO, MD. | Maryland's governor is proposing a bill that would allow Juvenile Services officials to share information with other agencies within the state and in other states and the District of Columbia without a parent's consent.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced the Child Safety Net legislation at a news conference on Thursday in Upper Marlboro. Officials say sharing information would be more efficient and would give Juvenile Services workers a broader perspective on children's situations. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Jan. 22

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-6-5
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	5-8-7
Mid-day DC 4	3-7-4-7
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	9-5-1-6
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	2-12-17-29-35
Daily 6 (Wed.)	2-3-14-15-25-36 Bonus: 20
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-3-16-19-24 (15)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	2-9-9
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-8-7
Mid-day Pick 4	5-0-1-1
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-8-0-3
Match 5 (Wed.)	5-6-9-11-29 Bonus: 2
Lotto (Wed.)	1-2-3-8-18-31

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	2-4-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	6-6-4
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	5-1-6-5

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	1-4-5-6
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	1-4-8-25-31
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	2-7-25-31-32
Win for Life (Wed.)	2-10-11-15-25-41

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	20-26-38-46-54 (23)
Power Play	4X

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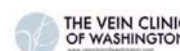
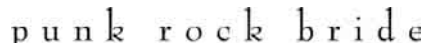
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Money

Bank Exec Abruptly Quits

Merrill Lynch paid out bonuses to employees after a loss of \$15.3B

NEW YORK | Wall Street bonuses, a sore point as the government gives billions of dollars in bailout money to the financial industry, have apparently cost former Merrill Lynch & Co. CEO John Thain his new job at Bank of America Corp.

Thain resigned from Bank of America Thursday following news that Merrill Lynch had rushed out its year-end bonuses, paying them just before Bank of America completed its acquisition of Merrill Lynch and sought \$20 billion in additional government bailout money.

The company gave no reason for Thain's departure, but its timing, coming hours after news reports about the bonuses, made it likely that there was a connection with the payouts.

The bonuses to Merrill Lynch executives were also paid out as



John Thain resigned from his new job with Bank of America on Thursday.

the company prepared to report a \$15.3 billion fourth-quarter loss — a loss that led Bank of America to request and receive government funds on top of the \$25 billion it had already been given.

The bonuses raise the question

of how proper it was for executives in a struggling company to be given big payments even as its soon-to-be parent was accepting billions of dollars in government money.

Bonuses were not paid to Thain or four other top executives — President and COO Greg Fleming, Chief Financial Officer Nelson Chai, President of Global Wealth Management Robert McCann, and General Counsel Rosemary Berkery — who requested they not receive additional compensation.

Bank of America has increasingly come under criticism in recent weeks for its acquisition of Merrill Lynch, a deal fostered by the government to save Merrill Lynch on the same day that Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. collapsed.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office has started an investigation into the "secret, last-minute" bonuses paid out by Merrill, according to a source familiar with the investigation. (AP)



Microsoft said Thursday it is cutting 5,000 jobs over the next 18 months, the first round of mass layoffs in its 34-year history.

Microsoft Plans First Mass Layoffs

Even nation's biggest companies are feeling sting of deep recession

SEATTLE | Microsoft Corp. will make the first mass layoffs in its 34-year history, cutting 5,000 jobs as demand for personal computers falls and even one of the world's richest companies gets burned by the recession.

The company announced the

cuts Thursday as it reported an 11 percent drop in second-quarter profit, which fell short of Wall Street's expectations.

"We're certainly in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime set of economic conditions," Chief Executive Steve Ballmer said during a conference call. With less access to credit, businesses and consumers are spending less and stretching the life span of their existing computers.

The cuts appeared to reflect

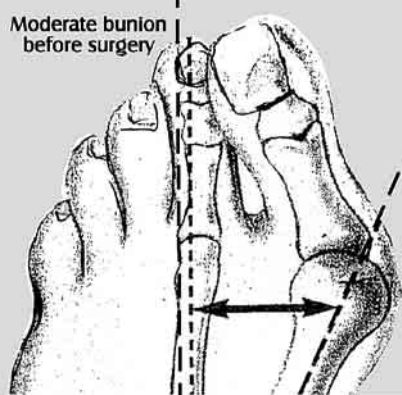
uncertainty about when times will get better. Microsoft said it could not issue a forecast for earnings and profits for the rest of the year.

The layoffs, starting with 1,400 on Thursday, will affect workers mostly in Redmond, Wash., where the company is based. Microsoft has never done layoffs on this scale before; it has only made relatively limited staff cuts after acquiring companies or reorganizing product groups. JESSICA MINTZ (AP)

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**WIZARDS**

Hot shot: Second-year guard Nick Young is emerging as a scoring threat — a rare bright spot for the lowly Washington Wizards. | 16

Sports Weekend



STAND-ALONE STAR: Alex Ovechkin is clearly one of the NHL's best players, which is why many eyebrows were raised when he wasn't voted in as an All-Star Game starter.

Second to One?

All-Star voting brings questions of Crosby as favorite over Ovechkin

CAPITALS | Ever since the starting lineups for this Sunday night's NHL All-Star Game in Montreal were announced, the question on every Capitals fans' mind has been the same: Why isn't Alex Ovechkin in the starting lineup?

Now in his fourth season of wow-ing hockey fans with his exploits on the ice, the snub from fans reopened a lot of questions concerning just how popular and marketable he can become off it.

Ask around the league why Ovechkin is merely a reserve, and they say a glitch in the voting sys-

tem allowed fans in hockey-crazed areas such as Montreal and Pittsburgh to use their phones to text in a one-word vote for an entire team. It explains why all five Eastern Conference starters are either Penguins or Canadians.

But here in Washington, with hockey more popular than ever, there's a growing suspicion that not enough is being done to promote Ovechkin alongside the NHL's poster child, Sidney Crosby, a la Magic Johnson and Larry Bird when the NBA rose to great acclaim two decades ago. The NHL thinks otherwise.

"There certainly is no favoritism [between Crosby and Ovechkin]," said Brian Jennings, the NHL's executive vice president of mar-

“There certainly is no favoritism. We clearly recognize the importance of [Ovechkin].”

BRIAN JENNINGS, NHL MARKETING

keting. “We clearly recognize the importance of [Ovechkin] and we’re going to try to use him as much as possible.”

For their part, the Capitals' marketing staff features Ovechkin in almost every campaign they do, while Tim McDermott, senior vice president and chief marketing

officer for the team, said he would “absolutely love to see the NHL dial it up even more in terms of Alex Ovechkin.”

Part of the problem, though, is Ovechkin's Russian heritage. While many find his charm undeniable, some companies have been timid to embrace the concept of a spokesman who talks in broken English.

And just this fall, the NHL set up a commercial shoot in New York for a national advertising campaign to highlight the league's young stars. Crosby was there, but Ovechkin declined an invitation, deciding to stay in Russia with his family and friends before the season began.

For now, at least, it looks as if popularity contests just aren't Ovechkin's thing — not that it bothers him.

“I don't like when people call me star or superstar,” he said back in September. “I just play hockey.”

MARK GIANNOTTO

TV Lineup



Va. Tech, which beat Wake Forest on Wednesday, faces Miami on Sunday.

friday

7 P.M. You know it's not a big sports night when the Dallas Mavericks-Detroit Pistons is the best game on television. ESPN

saturday

NOON A Maryland victory could keep

Duke from rising to No. 1 in the new men's college basketball polls. ESPN

3 P.M. and 9 P.M. The U.S. Figure Skating Championships take place in Cleveland. NBC

4 P.M. George Mason tries to shake off its first loss in the CAA against VCU in college hoops action. ESPNU

7 P.M. The NHL All-Star Game's skills competitions. Versus

10 P.M. The Wizards take on Greg Oden and the Portland Trail Blazers in their road trip finale. CSN

10 P.M. Champion Antonio Margarito (37-5-0) faces Shane Mosley (45-5-0) for the WBA welterweight title in Los Angeles. HBO

sunday

2 P.M. Georgetown's basketball team starts a stretch of three-straight road games against Seton Hall. MASN

5:30 P.M. After beating Wake Forest, Virginia Tech's men's hoops team takes on Miami. CSN

6 P.M. Alex Ovechkin will come off the bench during the NHL All-Star Game in Montreal. NBC

7 P.M. Maryland's women's basketball team looks for a key win over its ACC rival North Carolina. ESPN



BASKETBALL | Mean girls A Texas high school girls basketball team on the winning end of a 100-0 blowout has apologized to the losing school, calling the game “shameful and an embarrassment.” Officials from the Covenant School, a private Christian school

in Dallas, said Thursday they are seeking to forfeit the win because “victory without honor is a great loss.” Covenant defeated the Dallas Academy 100-0 on Jan. 13. The Dallas Academy, which has eight girls on its team and just 20 girls in the school, specializes in teaching students with what it calls “learning differences.” (AP)

Greivis' Behavior

Terps guard ordered to keep his emotions in check against Duke

TERPS MEN'S HOOPS | Maryland coach Gary Williams has ordered Greivis Vasquez to refrain from interacting with the fans during games.

That edict came down this month after a particularly vulgar exchange between the junior guard and spectators during the second half of the game against Georgia Tech. And that was a home game.

So, you can expect Saturday afternoon's crowd at Duke to test Vasquez's restraint. Given Wake Forest's loss on Wednesday, the No. 2 Blue Devils likely will move into the top spot with a win over Maryland.

Vasquez, though, isn't exactly one to bite his tongue.

"That's my house," he said of Cameron Indoor Arena. "I love going there."

But the Cameron Crazies, with their screaming enthusiasm and their prepared cheer sheets, shouldn't take that the wrong way.

"I just love their intensity," Vasquez said. "I think they're into



Greivis Vasquez is never shy about his emotions, but the Maryland Terrapins are asking him to tone down his act. The team visits No. 2 Duke on Saturday afternoon.

the game a lot. They talk a lot of trash and all that."

Williams pointed out that Vasquez is a different type of play-

er. A Venezuela native, he brings an international flair and flamboyance to the court. And that rubs some folks wrong.

Said Vasquez: "I'm just trying to get myself fired up on the court and just trying to be myself. I think it's a great opportunity for me to go there and just be myself."

And it's a great opportunity for the Terrapins (13-5, 2-2 in the ACC) to further make up for demoralizing losses against Miami and Florida State last week. They began that effort with a victory at home Tuesday against Virginia. A win in Durham would do wonders for their national standing and for their peace of mind.

"It's a big opportunity for us," junior guard Eric Hayes said. "We're 2-2 in the league. A lot of guys are probably overlooking us going down there. They probably give us no chance of winning down there."

Maryland, though, usually plays Duke tough. The Terrapins and Blue Devils have split their last eight meetings, with the teams alternating season sweeps. Duke won both games last year, so it may be Maryland's turn.

"Coach Williams does a great job of getting us ready for the big games," Hayes said. "He's just a winner. We've always had teams that go down there and are not scared to play down there, are ready to play. I think we'll do the same."

DEREK TURNER

Hoyas hoops: Georgetown's game vs. West Virginia ended after deadline. For results | **Today's Post, Sports**

Swengali

COLLEGE HOOPS | BY MATT SWENSON

Big East vs. ACC Is No Contest

IS THE BIG EAST really *that* good?

Some ACC supporters seem skeptical, claiming their league of choice is tops in college hoops.

When one team is left standing at the end of March Madness, ACC powers North Carolina, Duke or Wake Forest may be cutting down the nets.

For now, though, I'm sticking with the Big East as the best — not just this season, but perhaps of all time.

The Big East matches the ACC's best with national title contenders Pittsburgh, Connecticut and perhaps even Louisville. Where the real separation comes is the run down from the top three.

Ranked teams square off seemingly every day. How do you compete with that?

Georgetown, Marquette, Notre Dame, Syracuse and Villanova are all slam dunks to make the NCAA tournament. All five could reach the Sweet 16, and there may even be a Final Four squad in that second tier. Throw in West Virginia and Providence, and the Big East's depth is apparent.

The ACC can sport Clemson and Miami, which are comparable to the Georgetown group. Florida State is a real stretch; Virginia Tech needs to build off its win over No. 1 Wake Forest; and Maryland doesn't even belong in the discussion yet.

Simply put, there hasn't been a league featuring as many highly competitive teams as are in the Big East this year.

Ranked teams square off seemingly every day. How do you compete with that?

So, back to our original question: Yes, the Big East is the best.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Birds Make Markakis No. 1 Priority

Orioles lock up their star outfielder with 6-year, \$66.1M deal

ORIOLES | During an offseason in which they failed in their pursuit of hometown slugger Mark Teixeira, the Baltimore Orioles did the next best thing: Secure homegrown right fielder Nick Markakis for the next six seasons.

Markakis and Orioles President of Baseball Operations Andy MacPhail sat shoulder to shoulder Thursday during a news conference at Camden Yards. Markakis called it a "fairly easy decision" to accept \$66.1 million for six years, and MacPhail spoke delightedly about locking up the team's former



Orioles outfielder Nick Markakis signs his new contract on Thursday, much to the delight of team president Andy MacPhail, right. Markakis hit .306 last season.

No. 1 pick through 2014.

"This was our first priority," MacPhail said.

Markakis and his wife are expecting a child. He could have balked over the prospect of spending the next six years with an organization that hasn't had a winning season since 1997 but likes the idea of staying in Baltimore.

"The money is good. It's definitely security, but you want to see the direction the team is going," Markakis said. "The way Andy's been handling this, since he's been here, I don't think I can complain about one decision or move he's made. It's good to see the direction of the team. It's something I'd like to be part of for a while."

DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

'A Goofball, No Question'

Pittsburgh kicker Jeff Reed is unusual but ranks among the best

SUPER BOWL | From his piled-high platinum hair to his funny sayings and off-the-wall behavior, Jeff Reed is the life of the Pittsburgh Steelers' party.

If there's a tense moment during practice or a game, Reed is the player most likely to bring levity. The Steelers' locker room bulletin board



Reed

offers proof, with a half-dozen photos of Reed's face superimposed on those of men and women alike with bushy, dyed-blond hair.

"He is a goofball, no question about it," defensive lineman Chris Hoke said Wednesday. "See all these pictures on the wall? He's kind of a guy that gets everyone laughing all the time."

Except when he lines up a kick.

Reed often is overlooked when the NFL's top kickers are mentioned, but it's evident his teammates have as much confidence in him as any kicker in the game.

"Jeff Reed never disappoints us," coach Mike Tomlin said. "We take



Last year, Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Jeff Reed missed only two kicks all season. So far this campaign, Reed is 30-34, including the playoffs, despite changing snappers.

for granted what he does. I'm not shy about saying that when he takes the field, it's got to be three points.

I think it takes a unique personality to do what he does." Unique indeed.

Reed is the son of former Wichita State basketball player Morris Reed — mom Pam was a cheerleader — but he played soccer most of his athletic career.

He spent only three seasons as a kicker at any level, all of them after walking on at North Carolina, before signing with the Steelers following a midseason tryout in 2002.

Since going 1-for-3 as a rookie, Reed hasn't missed a postseason field-goal attempt. He is 3-for-3 in these playoffs and 13-for-13 since 2004, even though Heinz Field's often-spotty grass is considered by opposing players to be the NFL's worst playing field.

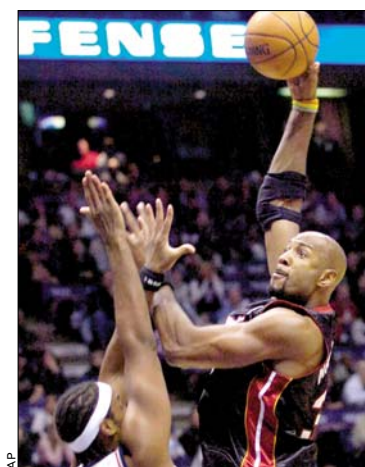
Having a kicker that consistent gives an offense confidence that no drive will be wasted.

"Any time Jeff Reed goes on the field, we count it as three points," quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said.

A year ago, Reed was about as perfect as a kicker can be — his only two misses in 25 attempts were a desperation 65-yarder at Denver and a 44-yarder in ankle-deep mud at Heinz.

He has been nearly as good this season, going 30-for-34, counting the playoffs, despite changing snappers at midseason and holders several times. ALAN ROBINSON (AP)

In Brief



Former Georgetown star center Alonzo Mourning retired on Thursday at age 38.

NBA Mourning Opts Against Comeback, Retires at 38

Alonzo Mourning has decided to retire rather than mount another NBA comeback at age 38. The seven-time All-Star center hasn't played since tearing the patella tendon and quadriceps muscle in his right leg on Dec. 19, 2007, the fourth anniversary of his lifesaving kidney transplant. Mourning, who turns 39 next month, played at Georgetown and was the second overall pick in the 1992 draft by the Charlotte Hornets. (AP)

NFL Irvin's Reality Show to Offer Spot on Dallas' Camp Roster

The first time Michael Irvin watched "American Idol," he loved the concept of giving undiscovered singers the chance to become stars. Now Irvin is doing the same for NFL wannabes. The Hall of Fame receiver is launching a reality TV show in which 12 "football neophytes" will compete for an impressive grand prize: a spot on the Dallas Cowboys' training camp roster. (AP)

TENNIS Venus Loses, Serena Escapes

Venus Williams squandered a match point before losing to 46th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, on Thursday, the biggest upset so far at the Australian Open. Serena Williams also struggled and headed to the practice courts after a 6-3, 7-5 win over Argentina's Gisela Dulko, ranked 45th. Serena Williams gave her performance a "D-minus, at best." (AP)

Leinart Sits While the Cardinals Soar

Well-decorated college QB awaits his chance to shine in the desert

SUPER BOWL | Matt Leinart is accustomed to attention, with a Heisman Trophy and two national championships at USC.

He is still, the Arizona Cardinals insist, the team's quarterback of the future.

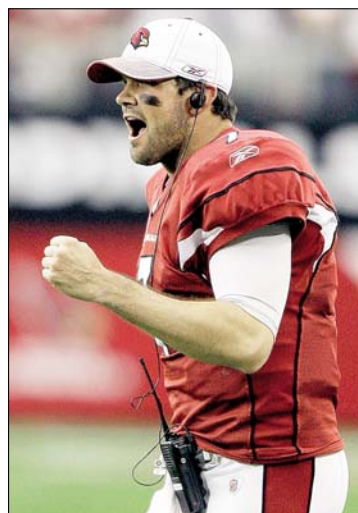
No one knows when that future might be. For now, he's just a backup, preparing to watch the Super Bowl and be ready should anything happen to Kurt Warner, the old guy who beat him out for the starting job and has guided the team to

unbelievable heights.

"I know my time is coming," Leinart said this week. "This year is not what I expected at the beginning, but it's been great. I mean, we're on a Super Bowl run, which is unbelievable. It's a learning experience, that's all it is, and it will make me better."

Leinart has not made any waves about his situation, even in the immediate aftermath of coach Ken Whisenhunt's decision just before the season began to make Warner the starter.

Warner went on to a performance rivaling his big years with the St. Louis Rams, cementing Leinart's spot on the bench. The more



The Arizona Cardinals insist that Matt Leinart is the team's QB of the future.

Leinart sits, the more the perception grows that in his third season he is an NFL bust.

"I've heard everything," he said. "A lot of people doubt me. A lot of people don't think I can play. It doesn't really bother me, truthfully, because if I let it bother me, I will be out of this game quickly."

Warner's big year could well mean more waiting, though. Warner's contract is up this season, and the team wants to re-sign him.

"You can't worry about that," Leinart said. "Those are bridges you cross when it happens. I'm not even thinking about that. I'm just thinking about this [the Super Bowl]." BOB BAUM (AP)

A Turning Point for Young

Second-year guard finds his scoring touch as Wizards keep losing

WIZARDS | In a lost season, Nick Young is not the personification of hope.

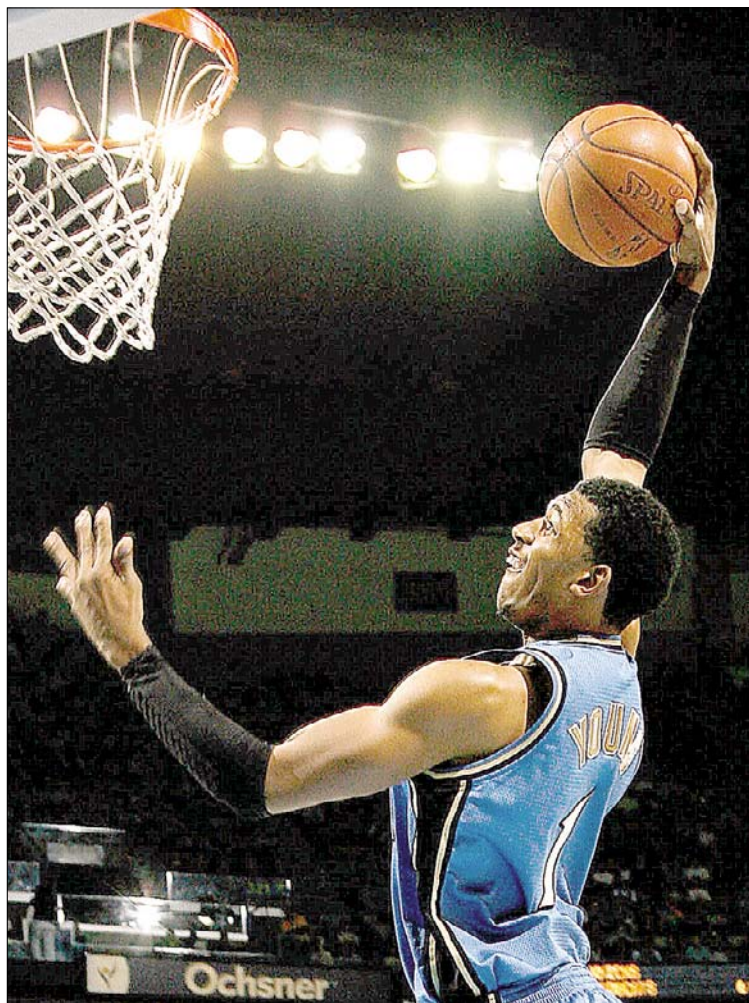
As the fourth-best scorer on the team, he's not going to get the Wizards many more wins than they'd earn without his services this season.

But in the midst of this shockingly bad campaign, Young is turning into an example of something the Wizards will need to make plenty of in the offseason if they want to improve: A good decision.

Young has tied and then topped his career high in points in three of the last seven games.

The second-year shooting guard scored 28 points at Chicago on Jan. 9, 30 against Milwaukee on Jan. 12 and 33 at Madison Square Garden against the Knicks on Jan. 14.

Unfortunately for Washington, all three games ended in losses — mostly because of defensive failings. But Young has shown signs that he



The Wizards' Nick Young throws down a dunk. The former USC star's emergence as a scoring threat has been a bright spot Washington's otherwise miserable season.

may be the best first-round pick to make his name with the club since Richard Hamilton — now a star on the Detroit Pistons.

"I watched a couple game tapes, and I just tried to get the feel back, and my shots just started going in for me," Young said after his performance against Milwaukee.

"That 21 game that Nick Young and [Bucks guard Michael] Redd had going on was unbelievable," Wizards forward Caron Butler said.

Young gave credit for his recent run to time spent looking at game tapes from his three-year stint at USC, where he was a two-time first team All-Pac-10 performer for the Trojans.

There, Young was the focal point of a dynamic offense that attacked its way to a Sweet 16 berth in the 2007 NCAA tournament.

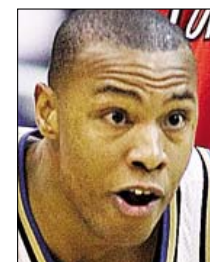
Young said remembering that success gave him the confidence to go out and try to repeat it in the pro game, where he has shown plenty of promise but logged just five starts in a season and a half. Defensive lapses and bouts of immaturity — two things most young players struggle with — kept Young on the sidelines a lot last season.

But the way he's played of late — commanding double teams and shooting more than 50 percent from the floor this month — Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott can hardly afford to keep him on the bench.

"Confidence comes and goes in funny ways," Tapscott said. "You get a good game going, get some shots, and it just tends to build on itself." **ERIC BRANDNER**

WASHINGTON'S HALF-BAD SEASON

The Wizards, who have struggled with injuries and have nine wins so far this season, are hoping for a fresh start for the second half of the season:



→ The Wizards were 9-32 overall and 3-17 on the road entering Thursday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers. They conclude their West Coast swing in Portland on Saturday night.

→ "This is our team; there is no help coming," said Caron Butler, left, after a rare road win Wednesday night in Sacramento. "We have a lot of young guys playing right now, and I'm getting more and more of a feeling of what they like to do out there."

Late game: The Wizards-Lakers game ended after deadline. For a full recap | washingtonpost.com/sports

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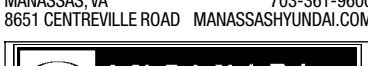
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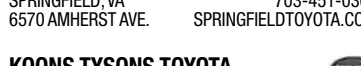
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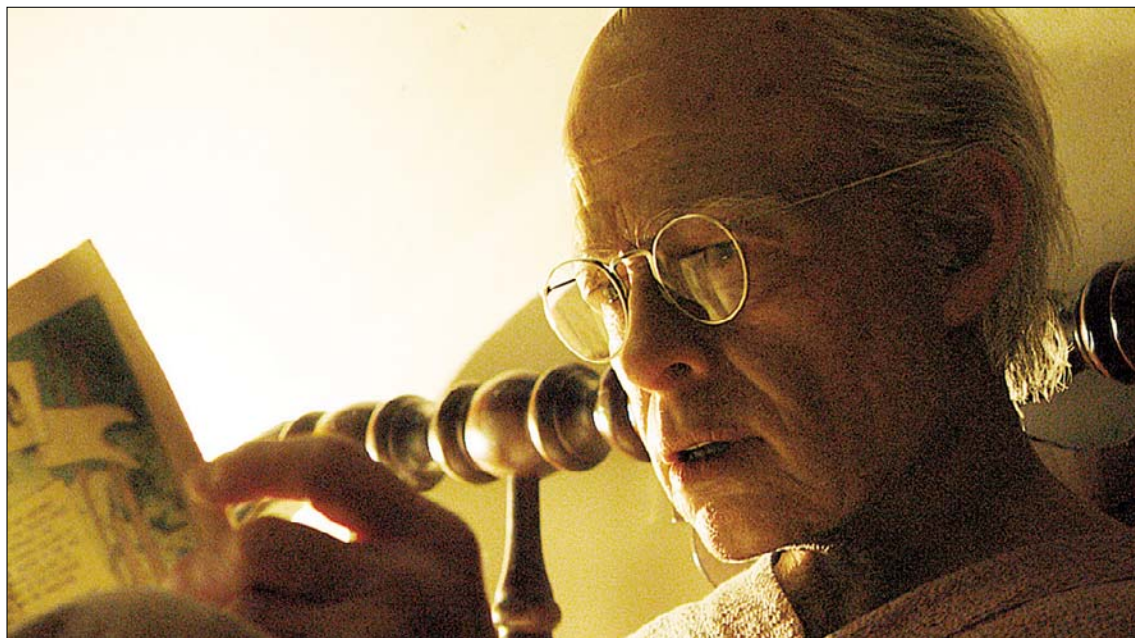


express

Entertainment Weekend

MUSICAL LEGEND

The other president: Tonight, pay homage to James Brown when hot DJs host A Tribute to the Funky President at the Loft. | 19



GOOD ODDS: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," starring Brad Pitt, has 13 Oscar nominations, more than any other film.

The Gold Rush

'Benjamin Button' and 'Slumdog' lead the Oscar nominee pack

AWARDS | The romantic fantasy "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" led Academy Awards contenders Thursday with 13 nominations, among them best picture and acting honors for Brad Pitt and Taraji P. Henson, and a directing slot for

David Fincher.

Other best-picture nominees are "Frost/Nixon," "Milk," "The Reader" and "Slumdog Millionaire."

As expected, Heath Ledger received a supporting-actor nomination for "The Dark Knight" on the one-year anniversary of his death. But the "Batman" blockbuster was shut out from other top categories such as best picture and best director.

"Slumdog Millionaire" lived up

to its rags-to-riches theme, coming in second with 10 nominations, including a directing spot for Danny Boyle.

Pitt and real-life partner Angelina Jolie both will be going to the Oscars as nominees. Jolie received a best-actress nomination for the missing-child drama "Changeling" while Pitt is up for his role as a man born old who ages backward toward childhood.

The acting categories were loaded with surprises. Kate Winslet won two Golden Globes, best dramatic actress for "Revolutionary Road" and supporting actress for "The Reader." But she was nominated for lead actress at the Oscars for "The Reader" — and shut out for "Revolutionary Road."

Actors considered long shots also sneaked in, among them lead-actor nominee Richard Jenkins for "The Visitor" and best-actress contender Melissa Leo for "Frozen River."

Other best-actress nominees were Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married" and Meryl Streep for "Doubt." It was a record 15th nomination for Streep, who already had more Oscar nominations than any other actor.

Joining Pitt and Jenkins in the best-actor category were Frank Langella, "Frost/Nixon"; Sean Penn, "Milk"; and Mickey Rourke, "The Wrestler."

Robert Downey Jr. is up against Ledger with a supporting-actor nomination for "Tropic Thunder," a rare broad comedy that crept into the acting categories.

Other supporting-acting picks include Josh Brolin for "Milk," Penelope Cruz for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" and Marisa Tomei for "The Wrestler."

Notably snubbed in the acting categories were Clint Eastwood for "Gran Torino," Sally Hawkins for "Happy-Go-Lucky" and Kristin Scott Thomas for "I've Loved You So Long." DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

I was wondering whether you could make a recommendation for best value and most delicious food during Restaurant Week (Feb. 16-22).

For dinner, Bistro Bis, Acadiana, Cafe Atlantico or Taberna del Alabardero could all be good bets.

→ *Bistro Bis, 15 E St. NW; 202-661-2700. (Union Station)*

→ *Acadiana, 901 New York Ave. NW; 202-408-8848. (Mt. Vernon Square)*

→ *Cafe Atlantico, 405 Eighth St. NW; 202-393-0812. (Gallery Place)*

→ *Taberna del Alabardero, 1776 I St. NW; 202-429-2200. (Farragut West)*



Guacamole at Cafe Atlantico is yours to share during Restaurant Week.

For Valentine's Day, I'm looking to have a day of activities. The significant other has mentioned really wanting to check out the aquarium in Baltimore. Other suggestions?

I'd look into the matinee showing of "Avenue Q" at the Warner Theatre. For an aquarium-like feel without actually going, you could head to Ocean Hall at the National Museum of Natural History.

→ *Warner Theatre, 13th and E streets NW, Feb. 10-15, various times and prices; 800-551-7328. (Metro Center)*

→ *National Museum of Natural History, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000. (Smithsonian)*

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

A Surreal, Nightmarish 'Waltz'

Brilliant animation gives a journey into memory an eerie feel

FILM | "Waltz With Bashir" is one of Israel's first animated features, and it's going to be a hard act to follow. Provocative, hallucinatory, incendiary, this devastating animated documentary is unlike any Israeli film you've seen. More than that, it seamlessly mixes the real and the surreal.

"Bashir" was written and directed by Ari Folman, one of Israel's top documentary filmmakers.

The film starts with an intentionally disturbing "welcome to my nightmare" sequence. It's a pack of rabid dogs rushing through the streets of Tel Aviv to get to the apartment of Folman's friend Boaz.

What we are seeing is a dream he has been having for 2 1/2 years that relates directly to Boaz's army service during Israel's controversial invasion of Lebanon in 1982.



Folman is on a mission to dredge up his part in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Even though he, too, participated in that invasion, Folman has absolutely no memories of what he experienced. That's especially troubling to him because it included standing by while Christian Falangist militia went on a killing rampage at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

The filmmaker wakes his friend, a psychiatrist, who tells him, "Memory takes us where we need to go." Folman decides that where he needs to go is on an investigation of his past.

KENNETH TURAN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Entertainment **Weekend**



THE GODFATHER: Check out A Tribute to the Funky President at the Loft tonight.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

The honor is alternately assigned to everyone from the Last Poets to Jamaican dancehall DJs, but without James Brown there would be no hip-hop as we know it today. During hip-hop's golden age, scores of records were built upon his grunts, vamps, bridges and beats. And before sampling became a common practice, b-boys borrowed from the Godfather's fluid vocabulary of moves. So, while all of popular music owes a huge debt to James Brown's science of funk, hip-hop has an even more intimate relationship with his work. It is in that spirit that DJ Roddy Rod, Cuzzin B, 2 Tone Jones and Grap Luva host A Tribute to the Funky President at the **LOFT** tonight.

Kicks is one of the more user-friendly DJ nights on the **BLACK CAT**'s monthly calendar. From Queen to the Cold War Kids, Cheap Trick to the Vivian Girls, the Ramones to the Rolling Stones, it's a night of pure fun rock and roll, mainly from the '70s and '80s, that begs you to have a couple beers and jump around on the backstage. Just when you think you're ready to leave, DJs Kim and Sara drop "Rebel Rebel" or "Teenage Kicks" and you find yourself saying, "OK, one more song," and the next thing you know, the lights

are coming up and it's time to go home, even though you meant to leave 45 minutes ago. As always, admission is free, and the doors open at 9:30 p.m.

Mittenfields sounds like a twee pop band, doesn't it? Maybe that's just an unfair association I have with anything to do with mittens, since ultimate twee label K Records famously sells its own mittens. But the band is certainly more atmospheric than twee, favoring layered sounds as opposed to shambolic rhythms and atonal vocals. Lots of bands fall into this trap and forget about actual songwriting, but Mittenfields doesn't seem like one of them. There's definitely something wintry about the band, so maybe that's where the mittens come in. In warmer news, the Caribbean is also on the bill at **SOLLY'S**.

SATURDAY

"Saturdays at **IBIZA** just got sexier!," screams the flyer for Ibiza's new "LADIES NIGHT!!" We don't know about that, but we like the sound of free admission for women all night and an open bar for everyone from 10 to 11 p.m. Headlining the new event are two very different Baltimore DJs: Jen Lasher — whose mix of synth-pop, electro and industrial has garnered her frequent appearances at Buzz — and Charles Feelgood — the house music don who was throwing warehouse parties and hosting Carl Cox and Derrick Carter back in the '90s.



Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/gog

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BROTHERS IN ARMS: Liev Schreiber and Daniel Craig as the Bielskis in “Defiance.”

Now Playing

BEDTIME STORIES (PG, 99 minutes)

Adam Sandler brings his immature charms to the role of Skeeter Bronson, a handyman with dreams of running the posh L.A. hotel where he changes the light bulbs. Saddled with his niece and nephew for a week and faced with the unwelcome concept of reading to the kids at bedtime, Skeeter instead makes up his own bedtime story. (OK)

BRIDE WARS (PG, 90 minutes)

Predictable, lazy and as overprocessed as Kate Hudson's hair, this thoroughly joyless movie also possesses a deep nasty streak, making it loathsome when it might have been merely annoying. Hudson plays Liv, a high-powered Manhattan lawyer who with her childhood friend Emma (Anne Hathaway) has always dreamed of getting married at New York's Plaza Hotel in June. You've seen the trailer. Sexist, mean-spirited and unforgivably unfunny. (AH)

CHE (R, 257 minutes)

In Steven Soderbergh's sprawling yet surprisingly taut two-part retelling of Che Guevara's life during the Cuban revolution and his ill-fated attempt to bring the fight to Bolivia, he comes into sharp, sympathetic focus by way of an extraordinary performance by Benicio Del Toro. Soderbergh has created an absorbing, even hypnotic cinematic experience, which for all the depth and detail of its portrayal of a man, turns out to be a stirring homage, not just to its subject, but to the trials and glories

of filmmaking itself. (AH)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN

BUTTON (PG-13, 165 minutes) Brad Pitt plays the title character, who is born in 1918 as an elderly man and then ages backward through the cataclysmic changes of the 20th century. Button is a naïf, passively moving through a world and meeting colorful characters who continually amaze him and — what else? — teach him how to live. Meanwhile, he nurtures a lifelong love for Daisy, played by Cate Blanchett at her most ethereally beautiful. The movie, directed with a firm hand by David Fincher, is often astonishingly beautiful. (AH)

DEFIANCE (R, 137 minutes)

Edward Zwick's often-stirring movie dramatizes the true story of Zus and Tuvia Bielski (Liev Schreiber and Daniel Craig), Jewish brothers who eluded their Nazi captors during World War II in what is now Belarus. With a younger brother, Zus and Tuvia help their fellow Jews escape the German SS and their collaborators by hiding in a forest and joining forces with the Red Army. Craig and Schreiber are terrific as the slightly thuggish Bielskis, and they're joined by an able supporting cast that includes Jamie Bell and the wonderful Mia Wasikowska. (AH)

DOUBT (PG-13, 104 minutes)

Meryl Streep brings her characteristic focus and wily craft to Sister Aloysius, the steely principal of a Catholic school in the Bronx, circa 1964. When a charismatic young priest named Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) shows an interest in the newly integrated school's only black student, Sister Aloysius begins to entertain suspicions about the priest's motives. But the story comes to be about much more than just Father Flynn's guilt or innocence: power, spiritual discipline, insti-

Entertainment Weekend

Now Playing

tutional politics and corrupt hierarchical rot. (AH)

FROST/NIXON (R, 122 minutes) You expect something dry, historical and probably contrived here. But you get a delicious contest of wits, brilliant acting and a surprisingly gripping narrative — no less dramatic even though the results are a foregone conclusion. As Nixon, Frank Langella is perfection. The character is generated from the inside out, not predicated on surface imitation or caricature. Frost is portrayed by Michael Sheen as a shallow playboy with a profound hollowness in his ambitious soul. (PK)

GRAN TORINO (R, 116 minutes) Clint Eastwood delivers a breathtaking performance in a by turns appalling and hilarious role that recalls great ghosts of Eastwood vigilante thrillers past. Playing Korean War vet Walt Kowalski, Eastwood spits, swears and seethes as a man who watches the world change from the front stoop of his Detroit house. Surrounded by Hmong immigrants he



DANIEL DAZA/IFC FILMS

TALKIN' ABOUT A REVOLUTION: Benicio Del Toro stars as the title character in "Che."

persists in calling offensive names, at least Walt is an equal-opportunity bombthrower. He has an epithet for everyone, even growling and glaring at his grandchildren. (He does love his dog and the restored 1972 Gran Torino in his driveway.) If it weren't for Eastwood's amusingly self-conscious performance, Walt would be insufferable, but the film is full of surprises. (AH)

MARLEY & ME (PG, 115 minutes) Based on the best-selling book by John Grogan, which chronicled his life with a large, lovable and deeply neurotic dog, the film proves the obvious: Not every book has a movie lurking in it. By the time John and Jennifer (Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston) and their three kids settle into a beautiful house near Philadelphia, Marley

Continued on page 22

This Weekend Go B.I.G.

RollingStone

"A new star is born in Jamal Woolard, who defines what it means to hypnotize in this compulsively watchable biopic of rap icon Biggie Smalls."

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Now Playing

Continued from page 21

is an old dog. When the bell finally tolls for poor Marley, director David Frankel spares no manipulation to create a death scene worthy of Dickens. (PK)

MILK (R, 128 minutes) Gus Van Sant has painted a vivid, affecting portrait of Harvey Milk, who in 1978 joined the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the first openly gay man to be elected to American public office in the United States. Sean Penn virtually disappears into his character, burying any trace of

native mannerism or accent and emerging as a wholly convincing New York Jewish boy made good. (AH)

NOTORIOUS (R, 100 minutes) This biopic about the life and death of Notorious B.I.G., feels like Biggie's Wikipedia page reformatted for the big screen. A young Christopher Wallace develops a fascination with the rhymes of Kurtis Blow and the flash of street hustlers. In high school, Wallace, played by 33-year-old newcomer Jamal "Gravy" Woolard, has grown up to become a drug dealer himself, raising the domestic pressure with his protective mother, Voletta (played Angela Bassett). But the rookie actor compensates admirably on-screen, chan-

neling the rapper's imposing physicality. Woolard, a Brooklyn rapper himself, might be most convincing behind the microphone. CHRIS RICHARDS

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG, 90 minutes) Even though this film was co-produced by Adam Sandler, it never sinks to scatological humor. That's pretty much where the accolades end for this mediocre, unmemorable comedy Kevin James plays an overweight mall security officer named Paul Blart. On a particularly unfortunate Black Friday, a posse of thieves assumes control of the mall and starts to take hostages. Will the man who can't even break up a catfight at Victoria's Secret step up when it real-

ly counts? (JC)

THE READER (R, 123 minutes) Bernhard Schlink's highly regarded novel receives a graceful, absorbing screen adaptation by director Stephen Daldry, who conveys a technically and morally complicated story with consummate skill and smoothness. Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes deliver fine performances as the tortured souls at the center of this wrenching portrait of Germany reckoning with its Nazi past. But the standout here is 18-year-old German actor David Kross, whose portrayal of a teenage Michael Berg suggests a promising future. (AH)

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R, 119 minutes) Sam Mendes's dirge-like adaptation of

EVERY WAR HAS A BEGINNING

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the 1961 novel by Richard Yates exerts an undeniable pull as its beautiful, doomed protagonists navigate the ennui of adult life in 1950s suburbia. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet play Frank and April Wheeler, who are leading lives of not-very-quiet desperation. They make fitful, furtive attempts to be happy: Frank pursues an affair, while April hits on the idea of moving to Paris. The entire psychological arc of the film can be discerned in Winslet's face, while DiCaprio still seems too boyish, too insubstantial,



CALL HIM BIG POPPA: Jamal Woolard, left, plays the iconic rapper in "Notorious."

to be playing a man coping with the realities of adulthood. (AH)

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R, 121 minutes) The resourceful, unerringly grounded title character is Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a lanky kid from the Mumbai slums whom we meet just after he wins 10 million rupees on India's own version of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" TV show. Accused of cheating, Jamal is taken into custody by the Mumbai police, and he proceeds to tell them his story, a tale of one boy's decidedly unsentimental education by way of poverty, tribal strife, abandonment, exploitation, criminal gangs and star-crossed love. Director Danny Boyle has clearly

found inspiration in the geography and textures of modern-day India. (AH)

THE WRESTLER (R, 109 minutes) As washed-up one-time ring master Randy "The Ram" Robinson, Mickey Rourke embodies the same tragedy of ego that afflicts his character. As good as Rourke is, his performance constantly begs the question of whether the story would be worth telling without him. (JA)



REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S JOHN ANDERSON, JEN CHANEY, ANN HORNADAY AND PHILIP KENNICOTT. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT.

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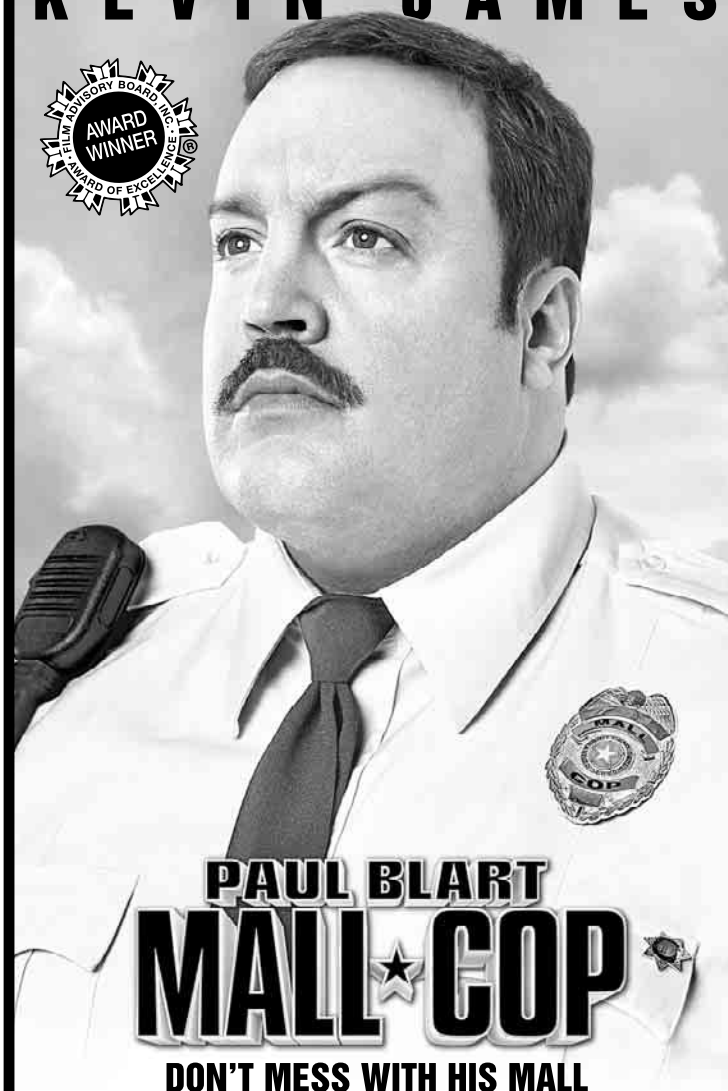
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One dad was highly educated and intelligent; he had a Ph.D. and had completed four years of undergraduate work in less than two years. He then went to do his advanced studies... all on full financial scholarships.

My other dad never finished the eighth grade. Both men were successful in their careers, working hard all their lives. Both earned substantial incomes.

Yet my highly educated dad struggled financially all his life and the other dad would become one of the richest men I had ever known.

One died leaving tens of millions of dollars to his family, charities, and his church. The other left a legacy of unpaid bills. Both men were strong, charismatic, and influential.

Both men offered me advice, but they did not advise the same things.

Having two dads as advisors offered me the perspective of contrasting points of view: one of a rich man and one of a poor man. This forced me to think about, and ultimately choose, a way of thinking for myself. A way of thinking that assures long-term wealth and true prosperity!

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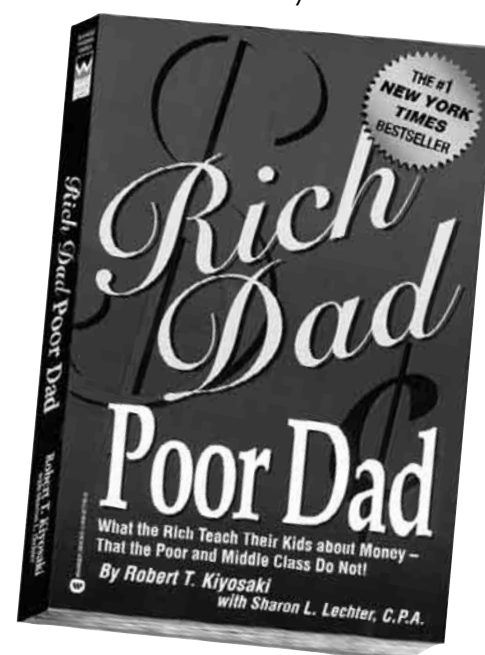
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My Poor Dad would say,
"I Work For My Money."

My Rich Dad said,
"My Money Works For Me."

- Robert Kiyosaki



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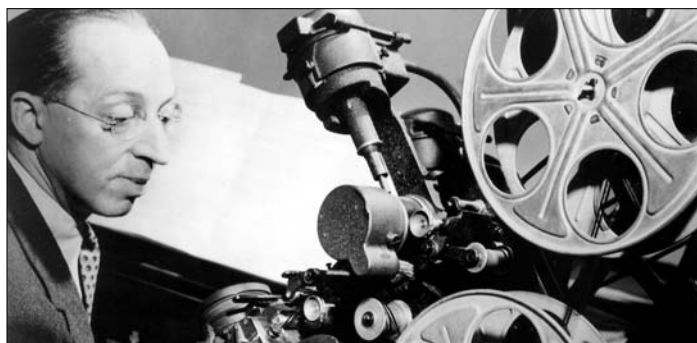


We've All Got Secrets



The Internet has changed the way we perceive privacy and anonymity. Frank Warren's PostSecret Web site, for example, trades in private things — it collects postcards sent in by anonymous readers who confess their deepest, darkest secrets. Warren has published several books of these postcards, and he'll discuss his experiences and motivations at Lisner on Friday. F.Z.

→ Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW, Fri., 7:30 p.m., \$10; 202-994-6800. (Foggy Bottom)



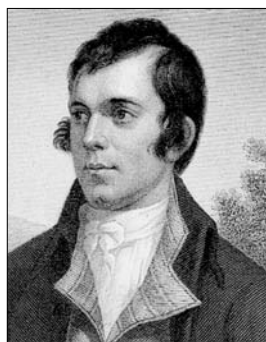
5 When Greenbelt Was Paradise

This 1939 film, scored by the great American composer Aaron Copland, pictured, contrasts a sanitized, beautiful rural New England town with a huge, disgusting city. The answer to all problems, so "The City" says, is a "new kind of city": Greenbelt, Md. No, really! Greenbelt is depicted as the ideal small city, a place that blends the community feeling of a small town with the advantages of a big city. F.Z.

→ Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW; Sat., 1 p.m. free; 202-364-1919. (Van Ness)

Scotch, Poetry

Sunday marks the 250th birthday of poet Robert Burns, bard of Scotland, who is responsible for the lyrics of "Auld Lang Syne." And



that, friends, is an excuse for Scotch whiskey. Head to the Royal Mile Pub to hear readings of Burns' poetry and to enjoy single malts, traditional music and haggis. F.Z.

→ Royal Mile Pub, 2407 Price Ave., Wheaton, Md.; Sun., 7 p.m., free; 301-946-4511. (Wheaton)



4 Duty's Call

If you watched every episode of "The West Wing" with breathless enthusiasm, here's a book for you: "To Serve the President: Continuity and Innovation in the White House Staff." The author is Bradley H. Patterson, a former White House staffer whose new career seems to be writing books about what it was like to be a White House staffer. He'll speak at the National Archives on Friday. F.Z.

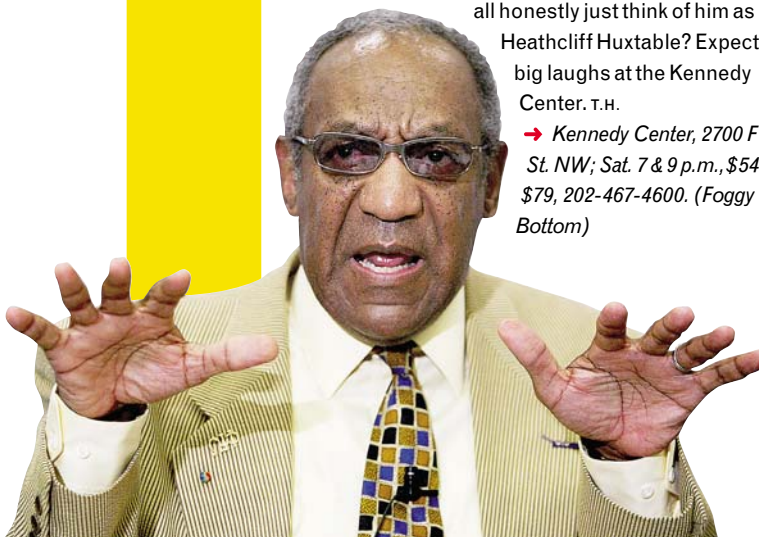
→ National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, noon, free; 202-357-5000. (Archives)

top stops WEEKEND

The Jokes Keep Coming

Bill Cosby, everybody's favorite comedian/activist, is coming to town. Break out your Coogi sweaters. Though Cosby's public speaking has caused tension in the black community, don't we all honestly just think of him as Heathcliff Huxtable? Expect big laughs at the Kennedy Center. T.H.

→ Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sat. 7 & 9 p.m., \$54-\$79, 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)



dine&dash



The Trend Is Marching On

SERIOUSLY, WHEN IS THE cupcake trend going to end? Not that cupcakes are objectionable — how can anyone truly oppose tiny islands of deliciousness? — but there *is* a recession on, and those tiny islands often cost upward of \$3 each. And yet the cupcake juggernaut does not appear to be slowing, with last month's opening of Red Velvet (675 E St. NW; 202-347-7895), a new cupcake-only spot in Penn Quarter.

But don't hold your flagging enthusiasm for cupcakes against Red Velvet. The cake is moist, the frosting is intense but not off-puttingly flavorful. Think vanilla cupcakes are boring? Try its vanilla bean cupcakes, whose frosting carries just a touch of bourbon. The red velvet flavor — avoiding the characteristically sanguine color in favor of a more appetizing burgundy — is light and tasty, with cream cheese frosting that won't leave you gasping for water, milk or really anything to cut the sweetness.

Red Velvet's tiny counter top is only long enough for four or five people to gaze out on Seventh Street, but it's a lovely place to relax for a glass of milk — and yes, in an incredibly smart move, they do sell milk. Nothing else goes quite so well with cupcakes.

Even if the ubiquity of cupcakes irritates you, you won't be able to hold it against Red Velvet. The food is wonderful, the service is fast and chatty, and if you're with a cupcake-hater, you can send him or her to the adjacent Tangysweet for a midday sugar fix. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

Television



THE ORIGINAL MCDREAMY: George Clooney is reportedly heading back to “ER.” Clooney, who was part of the cast of “ER” when the series debuted on NBC in 1994, is expected to film his cameo as Dr. Doug Ross this week. There is no set date for when his episode will air.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

THE FALLEN MR. ROARKE
Turner Classic Movies honors the late Ricardo Montalban with a marathon of films, beginning with the 1947 musical **FIESTA** (7:30 a.m., TCM, Fri.) and concluding with “The Singing Nun” (6 p.m.), from 1966.

REBELS WITH A CAUSE
The comic book rivalry between Marvel and DC moves to the small screen.

WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN (8 p.m., Nicktoons, Fri.) offers young viewers an hour-long introduction to an epic tale of mutant outcasts fighting for pride and survival against a cruel and despotic regime.

SPORTS FANATICS
Tami's decision to forgo the Jumbotron screen earns her a world of grief from parents who care only for football on **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** (9 p.m., NBC, Fri.).



NEW RIDE: On National Geographic, take a look at the Obamas' transportation.

SPIRITS SWING LOW
A bummed-out crew gets on with its business on **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA** (10 p.m., Sci Fi, Fri.).

THE HIGHLIGHT OF HIS YEAR
Mario Lopez hosts the **2009 MISS AMERICA**

PAGEANT (8 p.m., TLC, Sat.) live from Las Vegas.

RED-NECKIFY YOUR ACT
The talent hunt **GONE COUNTRY** (8 p.m., CMT, Sat.) enters its third season. “Gone” invites singers and performers

from other genres to collaborate with Nashville songwriters and to compete in challenges with a country-music flair. Past winners include Julio Iglesias Jr. and Sebastian Bach.

TALE OF BIGOTRY
Sigourney Weaver appears in **PRAYERS FOR BOBBY** (9 p.m., Lifetime, Sat.) as Mary Griffiths, a devout woman whose sense of Scripture divides her from her son, Bobby (Ryan Kelley), after he announces that he has homosexual feelings.

EXCHANGE OF POWER
On **BOARD AIR FORCE ONE** (8 p.m., National Geographic, Sun.) takes viewers on a tour of the flying White House and includes footage of President Obama's first trip on the aircraft, and former president George W. Bush's final flight.

TAKE YOUR WIVES OUT TONIGHT
Group dating and other trends give some pause on **BIG LOVE** (9 p.m., HBO, Sun.).

BAD DREAMLIKE
On **THE LAST TEMPLAR** (9 p.m., NBC, Sun.):



“Flight of the Conchords” is in full swing on HBO. Catch it Sunday night.

horsemen clad in Crusader gear galloping through Manhattan traffic and breaking into a New York museum to steal rare Vatican artifacts.

STARVING ARTISTS
A blown budget leads to extreme measures on **FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS** (10:05 p.m., HBO, Sun.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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REGAL GROUP

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13

Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 215 445) 730 1015 1215

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 700 1000

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 445) 745 1030

INKHEART (PG) (1115 145 430) 715 1000

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 745 1045 1145

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (200 415) 630 915 1130

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (1145 AM)

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 345) 715 1030

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1145 230 515) 800 1045

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1100 100 415) 700 945

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 330) 645 905

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1100 115 330) 600 815 1035

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1115 130 400) 630 900

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (245 PM) 630 PM 1015 PM

DOUBT (PG-13) (1200 PM)

VALKYRIE (PG-13) (1210 AM)

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14

20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (115 215 415 515) 715 815 945 1045

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 730 1030

INKHEART (PG) (100 400) 700 1000

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (420 PM) 720 PM 1010 PM

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (120 PM)

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (140 440) 745 1040

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 350) 650 950

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (210 500) 800 1045

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1240 340) 640 915

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (330 530) 810 1030

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 410) 710 1020

BRIDE WARS (PG) (200 450) 740 1015

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1245 330) 645 930

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (1230 PM) 630 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (300 PM) 920 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (110 PM)

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14

9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

INKHEART (PG) (140 440) 735 1005

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (215 510) 800 1030

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (520 PM) 1035 PM

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (105 350) 705 1000

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (150 430) 730 950

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1255 330) 630 900

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 410) 715 1010

OC & DA: BRIDE WARS (PG) (130 PM)

BRIDE WARS (PG) (420 PM) 645 PM 910 PM

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (220 PM) 810 PM

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (200 450) 745 1025

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (230 530) 815 1040

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (315 PM) 650 PM 1020 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1245 PM)

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (205 500) 750 1015

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (120 400) 700 940

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 340) 640 930

MAJESTIC STADIUM 20

900 Ellsworth Dr Silver Spring, MD 240-393-4826

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (130 220 315 440 510) 630 725 805 920 1010 1045

INKHEART (PG) (1200 225 500) 745 1020

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 115 240 335 505) 605 735 830 1005 1050

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (105 345) 615 840 1105

RW: HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (155 420) 710 930

RW: NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1235 325) 600 820 1040

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (135 425) 655 940

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (100 340) 620 845 1100

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 400) 720 1035

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1240 305 515) 740 950

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1230 250 520) 800 1015

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (140 405) 635 905

VALKYRIE (PG-13) 730 PM 1025 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (330 PM) 700 PM 1030 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1215 PM 230 PM 450 PM)

DOUBT (PG-13) (1250 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (145 430) 715 1000

FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 255 540) 815 1055

MILK & NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (120 410) 705 955

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (1210 PM)

ROYALE STADIUM 14

6505 America Blvd Hyattsville, MD 301-864-3456

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 320) 710 935

RW: UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 250 510) 740 1005

INKHEART (PG) (1210 245 515) 750 1020

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 340) 650 945

RW: HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1200 220 440) 700 930

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1215 230 445) 705 925

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 400) 800 1035

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1230 240 450) 715 955

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1255 410) 745 1015

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (100 325) 720 1000

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (1245 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (105 415) 730 1010

BETHESDA 10

7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

INKHEART (PG) (200 430) 700 930

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 240 510) 740 1000

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (115 330 545) 800 1015

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420) 720 1020

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (140 400) 640 900

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1220 250 520) 750 1010

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1250 310 530) 810 1030

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (145 420 420 PM)

VALKYRIE (PG-13) 720 PM 1010 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (320 PM) 650 PM 1015 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (100 PM)

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (110 410) 710 950

BOWIE STADIUM 14

15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1245 145 300 400 515) 615 730 830 1000 1045

INKHEART (PG) (1145 215 445) 715 945

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 645 945

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 1245 130 245 345 445) 600 645 745 845 1000 1045

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1230 245 500) 715 930

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1230 300 530) 800 1030

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1130 200 430) 700

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1100 130 345) 600 815 1030

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1115 200 415) 700 915

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1200 230 515) 745 1015

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 430) 730 1015

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) 930 PM

GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14

701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

INKHEART (PG) (1150 210) 445 720 950 1220

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 1230 200 300) 430 620 700 900 1000 1130 1215

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (1215 PM)

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 100) 320 400 640 730 940 1030 1235

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (230) 450 710 925 1145

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1235) 350 655 1005

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1220 250 500) 745 1020 1240

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1240 PM) 545 PM 1035 PM

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1200 215) 435 705 930 1210

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) 310 PM 800 PM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1210 245) 510 740 1010 1230

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (140 PM) 615 PM 945 PM

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1250) 340 630 915 1200

FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (110) 445 735 1025

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12

671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#

INKHEART (PG) (140 425) 710 950

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (240 510) 740 1010

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 700 1005

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (115 410) 650 925

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (215 440) 715 945

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (105 PM)

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (130 420) 705 1020

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (250 525) 800 1030

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (340 PM) 640 PM 940 PM

VALKYRIE (PG-13) (415 PM) 1015 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (110 PM 350 PM)

DOUBT (PG-13) 630 PM 910 PM

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (125 435) 725 1025

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (150 450) 750 1040

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (120 PM) 735 PM

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16

3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 140 240 410 510) 640 740 910 1010 1150

INKHEART (PG) (150 430) 710 950

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 200 300 400 500) 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (120 420) 720 1020

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (145 440) 730 1030

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1250 335) 610 845 1125

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (135 PM)

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (405 PM) 650 PM 920 PM

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (120 435) 750 1110

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (105 355) 630 905

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (115 350) 625 900 1130

BRIDE WARS (PG) (100 350) 620 850 1120

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (540 PM) 820 PM 1050 PM

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (250 PM)

VALKYRIE (PG-13) 1140 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (1240 PM 425 PM) 810 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (110 PM)

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16

5810 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

INKHEART (PG) (1120 140 415) 640 855

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 225 450) 720 950

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 300 520) 800 1020

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (130 355) 710 935

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1125 215 315 500) 620 745 910 1035

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1130 150 430) 705 925

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1115 135 400) 740 1005

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (125 355) 605 1015

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1140 200 425) 650 915

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) 750 PM 1025 PM

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 330) 700 945

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1215 240 505) 735 1000

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (1145 AM)

VALKYRIE (PG-13) (1210 PM)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (235 PM) 610 PM 940 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1220 PM 245 PM 510 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 205 445) 725 1010

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 340) 635 920

COUNTYSIDE STADIUM 20

45980 Royal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (110 405) 655 930

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (110 405) 655 930

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 320) 610 905

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 335) 620 910

INKHEART (PG) (130 420) 700 940

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 710 1010

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 120 230 410 455) 650 740 920 1015

OC: PAUL BLART - MALL COP (PG) (100 PM)

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 350) 640 935

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1200 225 345 450) 630 720 855 905

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 340) 645 1005

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1220 250 520) 750 1030

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1215 245 510) 730 1000

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (140 440) 735 1035

BRIDE WARS (PG) (135 435) 740 1020

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) 735 PM 1025 PM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (125 425) 715 945

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (1245 PM) 615 PM

VALKYRIE (PG-13) (1230 325) 625 915

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (1250 PM 425 PM) 800 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1210 PM 235 PM 500 PM)

FOX STADIUM 16

22875 Crawford Plz. Ashburn, VA 703-957-1035

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1230 130 250 350 510) 610 730 830 950

RW: UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 240 500) 720 940

INKHEART (PG) (200 430) 700 930

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (120 340) 600 820 1030

MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R) - ID REQ'D (120 340) 600 820 1030

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (230 520) 800 1040

DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 710 1010

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (145 410) 640 900

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (1245 300 550) 810

BRIDE WARS (PG) (110 330) 630 850

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R) - ID REQ'D (120 445) 745 1025

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1250 320) 650 915

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (115 PM)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (420 PM) 750 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1240 PM 310 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (140 440) 715 1000

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (150 450) 740 1020

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (140 450) 750 1025

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (130 420) 710 935

THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D (1045 135 415) 700 930

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 715 955

DOUBT (PG-13) 730 PM 1020 PM

LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (150 430) 740 1010

BRIDE WARS (PG) (110 410) 700 945

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (145 435) 725 950

THE TALE OF DESPERAUX (G) (115 PM 345 PM)

TWILIGHT (PG-13) (105 405) 705 1005

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (200 455) 755 1030

MANASSAS STADIUM 14

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE PINK PANTHER 2

UNDERWORLD 3 (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 100 245 345 500) 600 715 815 945 1045

INKHEART (PG) (1045 135 415) 700 930

NOTORIOUS (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 330) 630 1000

PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1115 150 410) 645 915

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1145 230 515) 745 1015

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (1245 315 540) 800 1025

THE UNBORN (PG-13) (115 300) 610 900

BRIDE WARS (PG) (1205 235 505) 805 1035

NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13) (1150 AM)

MARLEY AND ME (PG) (1110 155 455) 830

VALKYRIE (PG-13) 705 PM 1005 PM

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13) (210 PM 545 PM) 920 PM

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) (1130 AM 200 PM 445 PM)

GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (115 400) 650 950

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 430) 730 1030



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UNDERWORLD:
RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)
(I) 11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00
MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)
(I) 11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00
NOTORIOUS (R)
(I) 11:00, 1:10, 1:45, 2:25, 4:30, 5:00,
7:20, 7:50, 10:10, 10:35
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
(I) 11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
(I) 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20
NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13)
4:45, 7:35, 10:20
THE UNBORN (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00
GRAN TORINO (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

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RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)
12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50, 10:45
NOTORIOUS (R)
11:30, 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15,
7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R)
12:30, 2:30, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25, 10:20
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:40
NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG-13)
12:00, 4:00, 8:00
THE UNBORN (PG-13)
2:05, 6:05, 10:00

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DOUBT (PG-13)
5:00, 7:30, 9:40
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THE WRESTLER (R)
9:55, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 8:00, 10:15
DEFIANCE (R)
10:10, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:50
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
9:45, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:45
THE READER (R)
9:50, 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10
DOUBT (PG-13)
10:00, 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
FROST/NIXON (R)
9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05

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MILK (R)
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THE READER (R)
1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35
GRAN TORINO (R)
1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00
THE WRESTLER (R)
1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R)
2:15, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00
DOUBT (PG-13)
1:05, 10:45
FROST/NIXON (R)
3:30, 6:30, 9:15

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PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:30
DOUBT (PG-13)
3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:40

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RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)
12:00, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
FROST/NIXON (R)
12:30, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
INKHEART (PG)
12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
ARUNDHATI (NR)
11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 11:15
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
11:40, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
11:45, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10
MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R)
7:40, 9:55
MASKA (NR)
11:55, 3:15, 6:40, 10:00
GRAN TORINO (R)
12:10, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
**THE CURIOUS CASE OF
BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**
9:30
BEDTIME STORIES (PG)
12:25, 2:30, 5:10

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5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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DOUBT (PG-13)
1:40, 4:10
THE WRESTLER (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05
MILK (R)
1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
CHE (R)
(I) 1:00, 7:00
WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R)
12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00
THE READER (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9

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Advance Ticketing Available at
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* No Passes
* **UNDERWORLD:**
RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)
11:45, 2:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
* **INKHEART (PG)**
12:00, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25
* **FROST/NIXON (R)**
11:35, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
* **MY BLOODY VALENTINE
2D (R)**
11:50, 2:10, 4:20, 7:15, 9:35
* **NOTORIOUS (R)**
11:30, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20
* **HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)**
12:05, 2:05, 4:25, 7:00, 9:15
* **PAUL BLART:
MALL COP (PG)**
11:40, 2:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
* **NOT EASILY BROKEN
(PG-13)**
12:10, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
* **GRAN TORINO (R)**
2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
* **CHANDNI CHOWK TO CHINA
(PG-13)**
11:45



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PHOTOS BY KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Trends

Amid turbulent times, more people preserve wealth through gold

A few miles and a world away from London's financial district, 42-year-old Sadha Kaur walked into the gleaming stores of RPS Jewelers in a grimy west London suburb to buy a bangle for her daughter.

"I come in every now and then to buy her some jewelry for the day she gets married," she said. "It's better than buying handbags or shoes all the time — gold keeps its value and [people] can always sell it if they are stuck."

South Asian women have owned gold for generations, as ornament and insurance, a valuable cache to be used if disaster struck. And for a brief time last year, the old-fashioned attitude seemed a smart investment strategy.

“Gold holds its value over history like nothing else. ... It's a safety raft.”

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This past fall, as banks in Europe and America teetered on the brink of collapse, house prices went into freefall and stock markets slumped, gold's value soared as it took on its age-old role as a safe haven in times of trouble.

One of London's most established gold bullion dealers, ATS Bullion, had lines outside its offices tucked away by the entrance of central London's Savoy hotel. Another bullion dealer, Baird & Co, said business jumped 40 percent in the same period, and it was inundated

with so much demand for gold bars that it could take orders only from its best customers.

But in the last six months, the price of gold in U.S. dollars has fallen by 30 percent. It soared over \$1,000 per troy ounce, the traditional unit of weight for precious metals, last March but never hit those levels again. Even in October, when gold fever was again rising, the price hovered around \$980 and is now around \$850.

"The strengthening dollar masks how well gold is doing, but investors have also been put off by the fact that gold is too illiquid an asset. You can own a bar but it will take awhile to turn it into the cash you need to pay off debts," said Matthew Turner, an analyst for VM Group, a commodities research group.

The price of gold has declined in dollars with that of other commodities and has been pushed down by hedge funds that sold their gold



IRIDESCENT INVESTMENT: A jeweler displays gold bracelets in London. The precious metal has been hoarded for centuries.

A Timeless Treasure

holdings to raise cash in September and October. But in British pounds it is still at an all-time high, at 560 pounds per troy ounce compared to 450 pounds a year ago because of the recent dramatic slide in the British currency's value.

Gold, the metal the wealthy around the world have hoarded for centuries, is recognized and valued all over the world, can be stored in underground vaults or in your wardrobe, and does not rely on complex financial instruments.

"In Roman times, one gold coin could be exchanged for a toga. Now, its value is about 400 pounds, what it costs for a decent suit," said Paul Tustain, chief executive of Bullionvaults.com, an online gold trading company. "Gold holds its value over



WEAR THE WEALTH: A gold dress costs \$138,500 at RPS Jewelers in London.

history like nothing else. In times of turbulence, it's a safety raft."

The price of gold is still a lot higher now than the low of \$250 in 1999, when investors bought stocks and houses, and kept money in high interest accounts. House prices are still falling, equities are volatile and low interest rates make saving an unattractive option.

"Gold has always been about wealth preservation, not wealth creation," said Mark O'Byrne, director of Gold and Silver Investments, a precious metals broker. "In good times, there are far better ways to make money, but in bad times, holding gold coins and bars is a way of making sure your wealth doesn't disappear altogether."

MEERA SELVA (AP)

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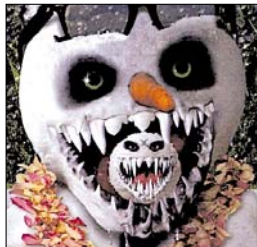
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FILM

True Horrors

Horror movies stink nowadays, and things continue downward with "Donkey Punch," a British horror thriller out now on DVD. (And, yes, the premise of the film is just what its title would suggest.) Still, Roxana Hadadi found five films even stupider than the atrocious "Donkey Punch." | ONLINE NOW



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FILM

Revolutionary Movies

You may not agree with Che Guevara's politics, but you have to respect his work ethic, as did director Steven Soderbergh, who made the new four-hour flick, "Che." But if you're not willing to sit through 268 minutes of that, Roxana Hadadi lists five other political biopics. | ONLINE NOW



poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE MAKING TOO MUCH OF MICHELLE OBAMA'S FASHION CHOICES?

YES 77%

NO 33%



"If by 'making too much' you mean caring at all, then, yes. Honestly, there are more important issues facing this nation than the color of Michelle Obama's dress or the store where she bought her gloves."

COMMENTER DIOGENES, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE MAKING TOO MUCH OF MICHELLE OBAMA'S FASHION CHOICES?"

“Believe it or not,

to some people, political fashion choices are as important as whether Guantanamo is shut down."

COMMENTER LUWA O., WHO ADDED, "FOR [THEM], FASHION IS A WELL-APPRECIATED [ART FORM] THAT DESERVES AS MUCH ATTENTION AS HOW YO-YO MA PLAYS THE CELLO."

“No. Michelle

Obama is an attractive woman and she wears beautiful fashions. Like Jackie Kennedy and Nancy Reagan, as first ladies, they set the style."

COMMENTER NANCY, WHO ADDED, "I'M SURE MICHELLE WILL DO THE SAME. I LOVE HER CHOICE OF FASHION SO FAR."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

"This was ultimately what Ted Kennedy wanted — but Caroline, appropriately, would not have been suited for or prepared for that life."

THEWASHINGTONNOTE.COM IS GLAD CAROLINE KENNEDY DROPPED OUT OF THE N.Y. SENATE RACE, BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE PUT HER IN LINE FOR A 2016 PRESIDENTIAL RUN.



SARAH L. VOISIN/TWP

"My dad joined Facebook recently. Worse: I had to send him a friend request. The dude taught me how to play soccer and drive a stick shift, but he can't even Facebook-friend me."

ARJEWTINO.COM, DOESN'T SEEM TOO PLEASED ABOUT HIS FATHER'S — KNOWN AS ARJEWPAPI — APPARENT INDIFFERENCE ABOUT BEING FRIENDS WITH HIS BLOGGER SON ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE.

"I WAS WALKING PAST [a middle school] and took note of the bike racks and bikes. There were 13 bicycles parked on the bike racks. I think these are the smartest kids (and teachers) in the school."

COMMUTERPAGEBLOG.COM, WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE KIDS WHO ELECTED TO RIDE THEIR BIKES TO SCHOOL, ADDING, "LET'S GIVE THESE BIKE RIDERS AN 'A' FOR RIDING EVERY DAY. THEY'RE SMART."

"You know what vexes me about the anti-abortion movement? They swell their numbers with children ... like [some] macabre field trip."

BLONDERTHANYOU.WORDPRESS.COM IS NOT A FAN OF SOME ANTI-ABORTION ADVOCATES, ADDING, "USING BRAINWASHED, VULNERABLE CHILDREN TO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT."



Discussions

Academy Awards

Post staff writers **HANK STUEVER** and **DAN ZAK** were online Thursday and discussed the Academy Award nominations.

I was so glad to see "The Reader" knock "The Dark Knight" from the best picture race. I wasn't a fan of "Dark Knight," "Frost/Nixon" or "Benjamin Button," so I was happy to see something I like better bump one of them. I'm still disappointed that "Button" got the most nominations, as I thought the film was really lacking in meaning. It was lovely, but empty.

DZ: "The Reader" had a lot going for it. Its producers include the late Anthony Minghella and Sydney Pollack. It's directed by Stephen



STEPHEN VAUGHAN/WARNER BROS./AP

"The Dark Knight" stars Christian Bale (Batman) and Heath Ledger (the Joker).

Daldry, who has helmed only three films and been nominated for each. It concerns the Holocaust. It has Kate Winslet. It's a highbrow literary adaptation. These building blocks are what make an Oscar movie.

Will Kate Winslet FINALLY win?

HS: It would be nice to see. I've

done, gosh, six years on the red carpet on Oscar night and let me say this: Kate Winslet is always the best, always comes over to talk even as it is plain that I have no television camera nor any of the magic that Ryan Seacrest has. And she's always funny! And honest! I would love to pal around with her.

Is Mickey Rourke a lock for best actor? I can't imagine Brad Pitt winning.

DZ: Rourke will win. Good performance + inspiring true-life comeback = double drama onstage. Penn already has an Oscar, Pitt's performance is too understated, and the nomination "is" the win for Langelia and Jenkins.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: The Big Money's Chris Thompson, who writes a blog focused on Google, discusses Google's earnings report at 11 a.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

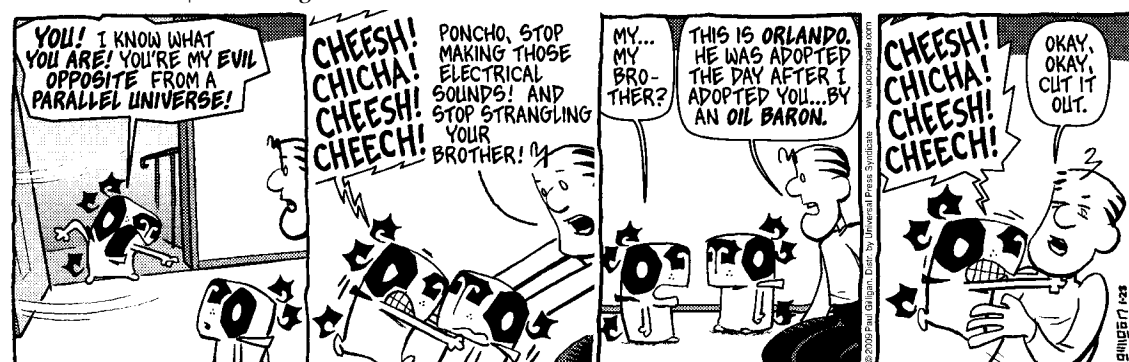


Cornered | Mike Baldwin

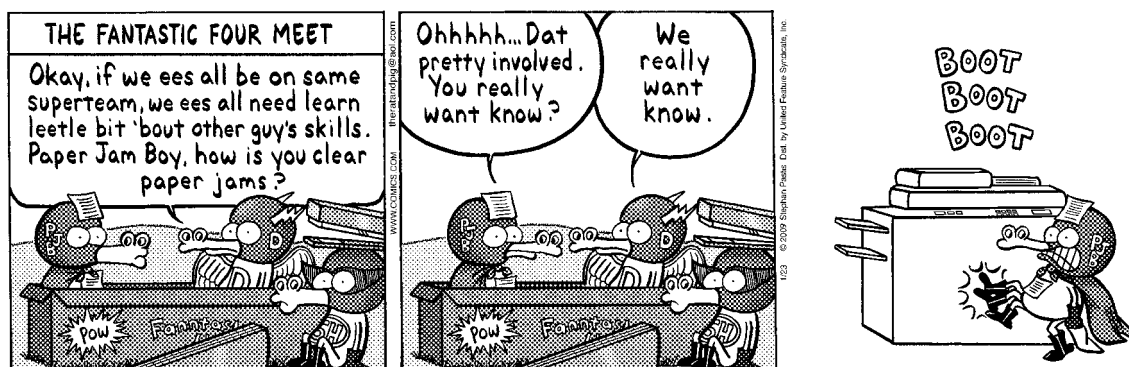


Stupid obscene phone callers.

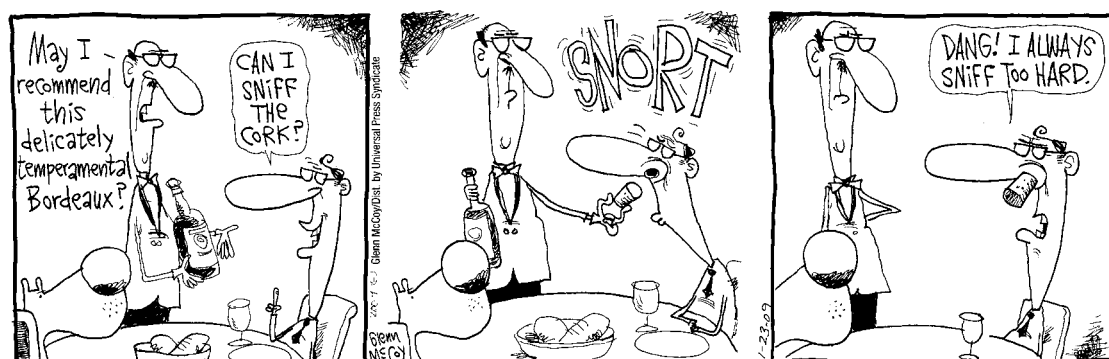
Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Take care that your interest in another's business is not misinterpreted. You have only the best intentions; make that much clear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Others are likely to scrutinize both your motives and your methods, but the process can prove that you're ready to move ahead.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Efficiency may be more important than creativity. Be sure to pay attention to how much you can do and how long it takes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your charitable instincts are likely to be engaged by someone who demonstrates a very real and pressing need for assistance only you can give.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't let economic developments steer you away from your most important personal goals. Your plans can be strengthened.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Difficulties faced by others are likely to be yours, too, — but you can prove what your own

unique thinking can really accomplish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may be having trouble keeping up the pace at this time. Slow down as necessary, and focus on how you do what you do — not how fast.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are only interested in doing things to the best of your ability at this time, and you can learn something that makes a big difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Trust in your social skills to see you through a situation that for others might be confusing or even impossible. Tactful honesty is key.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're looking forward to making a splash of sorts in the very near future, and you can make preparations that ensure dramatic results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It's important for you to be able to anticipate trouble. Others are likely to look to you for advice; share what you know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It's important that you know your limitations while promoting your strengths. Don't let others know too much too soon, however.



The series finale of the NBC sitcom "Friends" was filmed on this day in 2004.

Today in History

1789 Georgetown University is established in present-day Washington, D.C.

1964 The 24th Amendment to the Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, is ratified.

1973 President Nixon announces an accord has been reached to end the Vietnam War.

1998 A federal judge orders Monica Lewinsky to submit to an interview sought by House pros-

ecutors in President Clinton's impeachment trial.

2002 Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl is abducted in Karachi, Pakistan, by a group demanding the return of prisoners from the Afghan campaign; he was later slain.

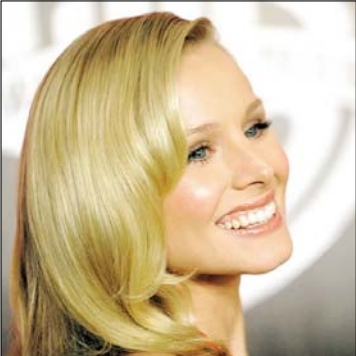
2004 The enduring situation comedy "Friends" films its final episode in front of an invitation-only audience.

2005 Former "Tonight Show" host Johnny Carson dies in Malibu, Calif., at age 79.

LOOK

out

People



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

She's Encyclopedia Brown and blond.

CASTING
Dearth of Teen Culture Gives Actress Little Inspiration
“Veronica Mars,” the canceled UPN/CW series about the trials of a misunderstood teen sleuth in a California beach town, is heading to the big screen. Creator Rob Thomas confirms **KRISTEN BELL** will reprise her role as the detective. (EXPRESS)

SOLO
Romeo Seeks Single Woman To Share Sunsets, Billions
 **SUMNER REDSTONE**, chairman of CBS and Viacom, has finalized the divorce from his wife of five years. Citing “irreconcilable differences” with wife Paula Fortunato, Redstone offered an undisclosed settlement. (AP)

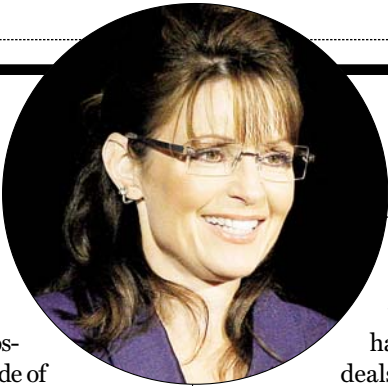


PETER KRAMER/AP

TRIOS

Magically There

Where was Paula Abdul during the inauguration celebrations? Well, E!Online reports she was vacationing in Mexico with lovebirds magician Criss Angel and former Playboy Playmate Holly Madison. The trio were spotted on the beach in front of the ME Cabo Hotel, the same joint where “The Hills” Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag fake-honeymooned last month. (EXPRESS)



BOOKS
She Can See Millions in Her Account From Her Office Desk
Alaska Gov. **SARAH PALIN** is moving closer to setting her side of the election saga in stone, or at least on paper and optioned for an audio book. The former Republican vice presidential candidate is said to be in talks with Robert Barnett, the

Would Palin's book sell well? You betcha.
D.C. attorney and book deal wizard. Barnett has brokered book deals for former first ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton, and President Obama and Dr. Sanjay Gupta. There is speculation Palin may broker a TV deal. (EXPRESS)

DUETS
Carey Expands Vocal Range, Adds Key of High-Nepotism
It may indeed pay to keep it all in the family. E!Online is reporting **MARIAH CAREY** has agreed to sing on the upcoming album of her brother-in-law, Reuben Cannon. The two will reportedly duet on Cannon's



debut album, which is slated to be released later this year. Carey, 38, married R&B personality Nick Cannon, 29, in April 2008 at Carey's estate on the island of Eleuthera. (EXPRESS)

TRAVEL
Dolphin IDs Dave Coulier As 'Jagged' Mystery Man
Before kicking off a tour of South America, **ALANIS MORISSETTE**, 34, took time to commune with the jungle. The Canadian singer of the fiery “Jagged Little Pill” relaxed on Wednesday in the Amazon, swimming with river dolphins and feeding monkeys in Manaus, Brazil. (AP)

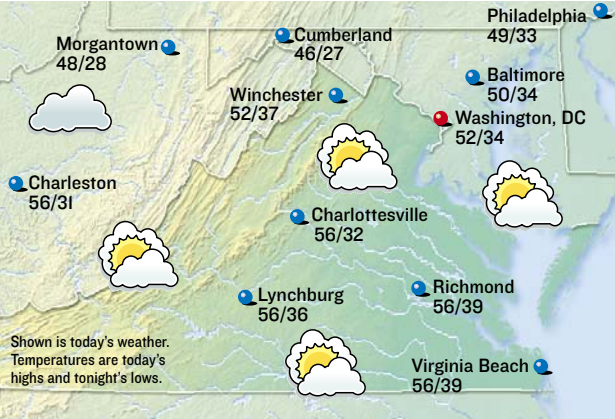


Monkeys give the 'do a "no-thumbs up."

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy, breezy	Partly sunny, breezy	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny
52°	34°	44° / 24°	33° / 22°	33° / 23°	36° / 27°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature
High 40°
Low 19°
Normal high 42°
Normal low 27°
Average humidity 48%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 2.02"
Normal month to date 2.31"
Year to date 2.02"
Last year to date 1.31"
Normal year to date 2.31"

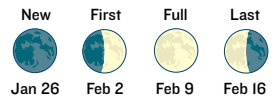
For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtontimes.com/weather

Regional Forecast

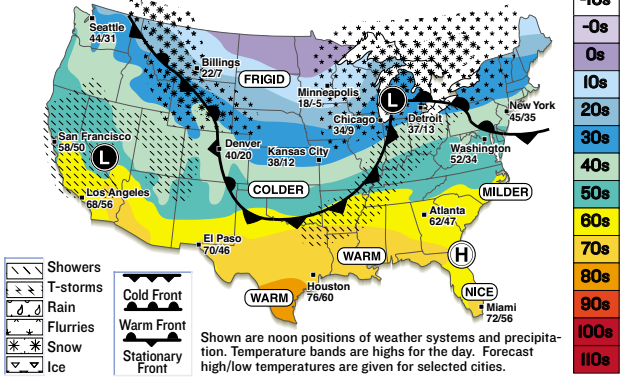
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, warmer. High 52. Wind south-southwest 6-12 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 34. Wind west 10-20 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:21 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:19 p.m.
Moonrise today 5:42 a.m.
Moonset today 2:51 p.m.



National Weather for Friday, January 23



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	62/47/pc	55/37/r
Boston	38/29/s	37/12/pc
Chicago	34/9/c	14/2/pc
Dallas	72/41/pc	44/32/pc
Denver	40/20/c	44/24/pc
Honolulu	80/68/s	79/67/pc
Los Angeles	68/56/c	66/52/c
Miami	72/56/s	76/61/s
New York City	45/35/s	38/18/pc
Orlando	66/40/s	73/46/pc
Seattle	44/31/pc	41/30/c

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	45/37/sh	42/34/c
Athens	57/52/sh	63/59/c
Berlin	39/30/sh	37/28/c
Buenos Aires	93/75/s	95/75/s
Calgary	-6/-9/pc	7/-11/pc
Dublin	43/34/pc	43/37/pc
Geneva	42/38/r	39/31/sn
Moscow	34/28/sn	36/32/sn
Rome	50/45/sh	55/43/r
Sydney	88/73/s	91/72/t
Tokyo	57/39/r	48/33/c

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

express

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■ **In her four seasons** as the resident shoulder-to-cry-on on the MTV reality juggernaut "The Hills," Whitney Port managed to do the impossible: Be genuinely likeable. Which is why the network made her the star of a N.Y.C.-based spin-off, "The City" (Mon., 10 p.m.). The show follows her fledgling fashion career and the characters she meets along the way.

On "The Hills," you had a small role, but on "The City," you're the star. Is it hard to move into the spotlight?

It's definitely been a weird experience. I went into "The Hills" with very career-oriented goals in fashion — it was never a dream of mine to be on TV. The attention is not something I'm so comfortable with, but at the same time, I'm definitely having a lot of fun with it.

With crazy "Hills" cast mates like Spencer and Heidi, you're known as the "normal" one. Is that fair?

I think so. Normal is kind of a weird word, but I'd consider myself pretty normal. I have a close-knit family, and they keep me in line.

How have you avoided all the Us Weekly-style drama that so many of the "Hills" cast has gotten into?

Honestly, that whole scene just isn't for me. I grew up in Los Angeles, so the whole L.A. lifestyle is just something I'm used to. I'm not enthused by it; I don't go out seeking attention. I'd rather be home with my family and friends.

So, on a typical weekend night, where would we usually find you?

Probably having dinner with my girlfriends or my family, or maybe seeing a movie. I do like to go dancing, so if I go out, I'll do that.

So, if you're at a club to dance, what music would you request?

I can listen to anything, but I do love Britney Spears' "Circus."



JENNIFER LIVINGSTON/COURTESY MTV

Whitney Port

MTV REALITY INGENUE, NEW YORK TRANSPLANT

Now that you're pretty recognizable, do you have to look presentable every time you step outside?

I try not to make it a huge priority, because if I analyze what I'm wearing, what I'm saying and what I'm doing too much, that's when insecurity can set in. I just try to be myself. No one can look and be perfect all of the time.

Is there anything people are surprised about when they meet you?
I seem to get the "You're really tall" thing a lot.

What do people seem to remember most about you from the shows?

Probably when I fell during "Good Morning America." When it happened, I was super-embarrassed and pretty much crying all day. But now, looking back, it was just one of those things.

Plus, you did get to wear Hilary Swank's Oscar dress and hang out with Vogue's Andre Leon Talley.

It always helps to look at it glass-half-full, that's for sure.

What was the biggest transition in moving from L.A. to New York?

Probably the cold weather. And also leaving behind my car — I'm

used to just being able to just get in it and go.

Did you adjust your wardrobe, too?
My style has gotten a little more structured and sophisticated, mostly because I'm working at Diane von Furstenberg now. But, for the most part, I've still kept my L.A. style. I'll always be a California girl.

"For the most part, I've kept my L.A. style. I'll always be a California girl."

"The City" is criticized for being scripted. What's your response?

Our show prides itself on its cinematography, so there's a certain amount of production. But all the drama and conversations are real. No one's ever been given a script. Everything that we say and do, we own it. BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)

The Hair And Now

AFTER MONTHS of chilly wind and hot heating, our tresses are showing winter's wrath. This makes the arrival of Shu Uemura's Muroto Volume hair line extra-welcome. The shampoo (shown, \$40, Shu Uemura to hair-usa.com), conditioner and gel give added oomph to limp locks through natural extracts sourced from deep seawater off the coast of Japan. This means our product is better-traveled than we are, but it works so well, we're not complaining.



3 Change for The Better

ORDER LATTE FOR \$4.27. Root around rabidly in bottom of purse for exact change. Apologize profusely to cranky, caffeine-deprived person behind you. If this scenario sounds familiar, it might be time to put your pennies toward a flower-print change purse (\$18, Anthropologie.com). Slightly oversized, this baby proves big enough for coins, keys and even a cell phone, and is easy enough to find in the depths of a big bag. Imagine how happy the next person in line will be!



1 Happy New Beer

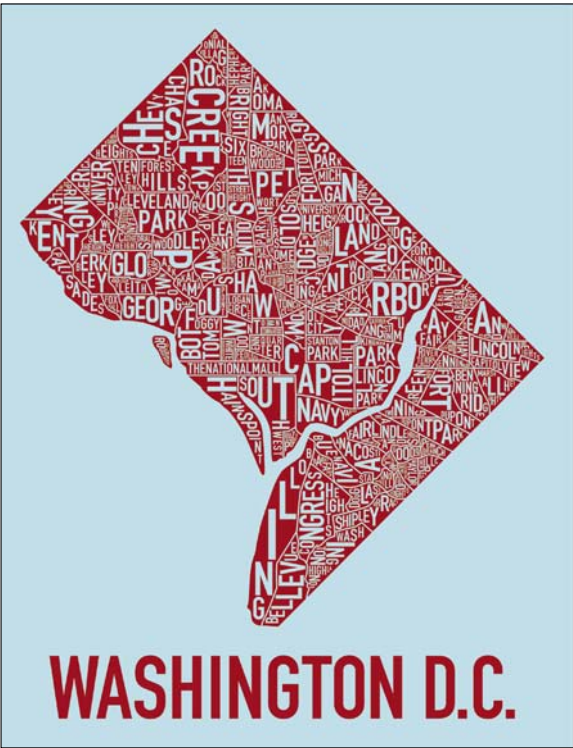
ON THE CHINESE CALENDAR, the new year starts Jan. 26. You could mark the Year of the Ox by heading to Chinatown to chow down on dumplings. But we're pooped from the holidays/inauguration/Mongolian-winter weather, so we're opting to celebrate with takeout and a Tsingtao beer. Bottle openers (\$6, Homebody, 715 Eighth St. SE; 202-544-8445) that look like Beijing opera masks will add to the mood.



2

Hood Winks

TRULY BORN-AND-BRED Washingtonians are few and far between. But transplants can beef up on the farthest corners of their adopted home with Ork's D.C. neighborhoods print (\$22, Orkposters.com), which painstakingly charts local hoods from the big (Chevy Chase) to the small (Stanton Park). No, we didn't know that one, either). The modern graphic design makes for cool wall decor, and the detailed deconstruction of the city limits is as illuminating as it is inventive.



A Shaded View

THERE'S A REASON aviators have been hot even since before Tom Cruise wore them in "Top Gun." Not only are the classic shades flattering on most faces, but they instantly lend an air of serious cool. We love Veronique Branquinho's sleek version, available in dark black or mirrored white (\$312, Farinelli's, 2839 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington; 703-647-9856), which has the added luxury of leather-edged frames. We'll leave the motorcycle and Kenny Loggins background music to your discretion.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I am a college student looking for a comfortable flat boot. My dream boot is knee-high, suede and cheap enough that I can afford it. Help! — CHRIS

■ Manolo says, as the longtime readers of the Manolo know, the Manolo always recommends that the poor girl should save up her monies, so as to get the most super-fantastic and well-made boots possible, as such footwear will not only give the wearer more pleasure, but will also be more durable.



However, the Manolo also knows that your feet get cold in the winter, even if you are poor.

And, indeed, the Manolo knows what it is like to be poor, so poor that you must fashion your own super-fantastic snow boots out of the hides you have harvested from the dead animals found alongside the freeway, and which you have laboriously chewed into suppleness, Eskimo-style, and then stitched into shape and stuffed with dry grass for warmth. And which looked most wonderful, even if the smell of marmot lingered.

Look, here is the Fauna Tall Boot from Timberland (\$160, Zappos.com). It is not just cozy warm, reasonably priced and good-looking; it is also waterproof!

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

* event horizon

→ From Jan. 23 to 25, get a sneak peek of local designer Rochelle Behrens' spring collection at Ginger. 7114 Bethesda Lane, Bethesda; 301-664-9242.



ALL PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE LUK

COCOA GOES LOCO

Hot chocolate goes gourmet with fruity toppings, shots of liqueur and fancy cups

Archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Mayans were the first people to liquefy chocolate and drink it. Their cacao potion was cold, and by all accounts kind of bitter and nasty. But they started a slurping tradition that still makes people drain their mugs today.

But in recent years, the sweet treat has moved way beyond the powdery, from-a-mix blend you likely sipped as a kid. Restaurants and cafes, inspired both by European recipes and the increasingly sophisticated chocolate scene, are pouring gourmet cacao-driven drinks. Watch your backs, lattes and macchiatos: There's a new sip in town.

Blame the haute cocoa trend on consumers' changing — and ever more refined — whims. Just as tastes for solid chocolate have moved from mass-produced, sweeter bars to fine, artisanal (and usually bittersweet) products, hot chocolate, too, has grown up.

The cocoa being poured at high-end restaurants and sold at boutique chocolate shops both in D.C. and across the country emphasizes the natural flavors of chocolate and shies away from too much sugar. According to Paris-based Chloé Doutre-Roussel, author of "The Chocolate Connoisseur" (\$19, Piatkus Books), the sips follow the pattern of the bars. "As with wine, people congregate over hot chocolate, discussing the complexity of aromas, regions and vintages. It's become a reason to get together."

Sophisticated as cocoa may have become, it's still simple to prepare: Just melt or warm chocolate, add milk or another liquid, stir and serve — no frothers, grinders or steamers required.

What you do need is good starting ingredients. That means either whole bars of chocolate (milk or dark will do) or a mix from one of a growing number of bean-obsessed companies.

Jason Andelman of Arlington's Artisan Confections (4815B Lee Hwy; 703-239-0616; Artisanconfections.com) sells hot chocolate mix (\$15) alongside his truffles and bars. His blend of Venezuelan dark chocolate cut with a touch of milk chocolate is meant to be served in portions of less than a cup, reminiscent of the thick potions served at cafes in Spain with churros (doughnuts). Andelman likens the brew to an espresso. "This isn't kids' stuff," he says. "You cannot drink it like coffee in a giant mug

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without overloading.”

Unlike the French or Spanish method of making cocoa — melting solid chocolate with water — Andelman recommends using milk. The result: a creamy drink that adapts the Euro classic to American tastes. “The consistency should have a little bit of body, but not be too thick to sip,” says Andelman.

As more people have started craving gourmet sipping chocolate, cafes have sprung up across town with menus dedicated to the liquid dessert. In the past year alone, sweet slingers Locolat (1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-518-2570) and Coco Sala (929 F St. NW; 202-347-4265) have set up shop, bringing drinks (and bonbons) that'd make Willie Wonka nervous.

ACKC cafes in Logan Circle (1529C 14th St. NW; 202-387-2626) and Alexandria (2003A Mt. Vernon Ave.; 703-635-7917) dole out a dozen types of hot chocolate from the Creme de Menthe-powered, Oreo-topped Marilyn to the orange and caramel-infused Rita Hayworth.

“These drinks give people the opportunity to express their youthful love of chocolate in a more adult conception,” says co-owner Rob Kingsbury. ACKC blends its elixirs from shavings of Belgian chocolate. “It's the same chocolate as our bars and truffles.”

The quality of the base chocolate



CHOC MARKET: Tangysweet's French-inspired hot chocolate, far left, gets its rich flavor from whipped cream and mint. At ACKC cafes, the Liz Taylor, top, is infused with lavender and topped with pistachios. Pastry chef David Guas, bottom, melts dark Valrhona chocolate and then strains it to create concoctions for Red Velvet and Tangysweet.

separates casual cocoas from better brews. Pastry chef David Guas of Damgoodsweet developed a French-inspired chocolat chaud for the new Red Velvet Cupcakery (675 E St. NW; 202-347-7895) and both locations of Tangysweet yogurt stores (2029 P St. NW; 202-822-2066 and 675 E St. NW). His Valrhona-based stuff

is a stick-to-your-ribs treat — rich, dark and garnished with mint leaves and whipped cream. “This isn’t a sweet, light drink. It’s in-your-face,” says Guas.

When serving a cup or two at home, you, too, can veer away from the standard chocolate and milk combo by adding spices or other ingredients. Basically, anything that tastes good in a truffle also suits a melty cup of chocolate. ACKC puts ground ginger and wasabi in the Ginger Rogers, and almond syrup and coconut flakes in the Bette Davis.

Chef Vikram Sunderam of Rasika Restaurant (633 D St. NW; 202-637-1222) loves to experiment with chocolate. “People find it to be one-dimensional, so I add spice to give unexpected flavors,” he says.

Mixing things up at home? Sunderam recommends using masala spices (familiar in chai), such as ginger, pepper, clove, cinnamon, fennel seeds and cardamom. “These flavors enhance the chocolate, but some also have medicinal purposes, like the warming qualities of ginger,” he says.

Rather than pump each drink full

↑ RECIPE FILE

Liz Taylor Cocoa

ACKC calls its hot chocolate flavors divas. You'll see why after you've made this subtle-yet-rich cup named for the sultry star of “International Velvet” and “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.”

- 1 1/2 cups (12 ounces) hot milk
- 1/2 tsp lavender (preferably buds)
- 2 tbs pistachio nuts, roasted and salted
- 1/3 cup shaved semi-sweet chocolate
- Whipped cream, for garnish

IN A SMALL SAUCEPAN, simmer the milk on medium-low heat. Remove the pan from the heat and add the lavender buds in a tea ball or straight into the milk. Let steep for two minutes.

While the lavender steeps, chop pistachio nuts. If not using a tea ball, strain the milk into a mug.

Whisk chocolate shavings into the warm milk, continuing to stir until the chocolate has melted. Top with cream and pistachio nuts.

COURTESY ACKC

of spice, test out pairings, like ginger and clove, in small quantities as you're mixing it to see what works best with different chocolates.

Cocoa and spirits also go swell together. Peppermint schnapps and Baileys Irish Cream are two classics; Kahlua and Amaretto also add both flavor and potency. Chef Nisha Sidhu of CoCo Sala recommends spiking drinks with Chambord or Crème de Menthe (good in white chocolate), Frangelico or Malibu rum (best in milk chocolate) and Crème de Banane, Grand Marnier or dark rum (dark chocolate).

And like a good cocktail, cocoa tastes better when nicely presented. That might mean capping the stuff with gourmet marshmallows such as Plush Puffs (Plushpuffs.com). At ACKC, baristas throw sundae-like toppings on hot cocoa: ground pistachios, dried strawberries, rainbow sprinkles. “The texture is as important as the flavor,” says Kingsbury.

When making cocoa at home, warm the milk over low to medium heat, being careful not to scald it, which can ruin the taste. Then add as much solid or powdered chocolate as you like. At a party, let guests top mugs with whipped cream you've flavored with brandy or a sprinkling of cinnamon. Plan to serve the drinks with some fruit, biscotti or light snacks to balance the thick chocolate. (Unless you're serving to the Hershey family, chocolate snacks are probably a bit over-the-top.) A few glasses of palate-refreshing water would also be nice.

When it's time to pour, you have many serving options. Angela Phelps, owner of Shirlington's French-inspired shop Le Village Marche (4150 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-379-4444), likes to make hot chocolate at home, altering the presentation to suit different recipes. “If you're making a light, frothy hot chocolate, serve it in a giant café au lait bowl or even an ice cream bowl.” Phelps keeps espresso cups on hand for thicker chocolates and Irish coffee mugs for spiked drinks.

You can also dress up a cup of cocoa by stirring it with a silver demitasse spoon and setting it on a vintage napkin. It's a far cry from that chipped mug you drank the stuff out of when you were 12. But that mustache of chocolatey froth you'll get from downing one of these ramped-up cups of sweetness should still look the same. ERIN HARTIGAN

Styles | fashion

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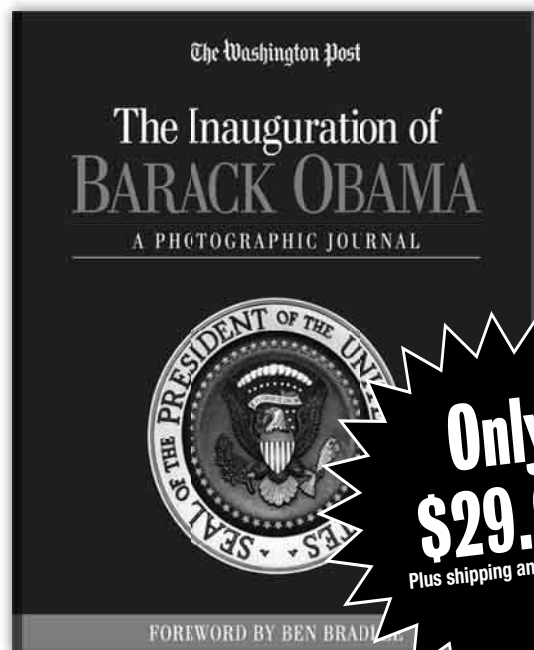
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The Boyfriend's Back

The newest jeans for her get their shape from his closet

When Katie Holmes stepped out this fall in baggy, saggy jeans haphazardly cuffed above the ankle, it sparked a fashion debate not seen since Ugg versus ugh.

Love 'em or hate 'em, Mrs. Cruise's slouchy pants — a pair of Prps jeans that were, in fact, stolen from Tom's side of the closet — spread as quickly as her bob haircut had the season before.

Before long, stylish celebs such as Reese Witherspoon and Rachel Bilson traded in their slim-cut, cigarette-legged denim for raggedy, rolled-up models from the men's department.

"People were ready for something different," says Kristina Sisul, manager of National Jean Company's Bethesda and Reston outposts. "Super-dark skinnies had been the big trend for a while, and this look goes completely against that. It's distressed, loose, baggy and definitely not tailored."

Not to mention infinitely more comfortable than the ultra-fitted, low-rise, plumber's-crack-baring cuts that have dominated denim trends for years. "Many women prefer to buy a size up and wear them slouchy and loose," says Alana Goldsmith Brown, denim buyer for Shopbop.com, which stocks supersaggy women's styles from Current/Elliott and Genetic Denim.

To-the-masses companies have also made room for the roomier styles. J. Crew, for example, is offering both the shreddy "Vintage Slim" and the loose "Boy Jean."

Of course, there's a tricky balance between being comfy and being a slob. Sisul suggests keeping shoes and tops upscale to stay

"There are so many ways to wear them, and they're flattering."

more chic than schlumpy. "Dress them up with a great pair of heels," she says. "Try them cuffed and uncuffed. There are so many ways to wear them, and they're flattering on every shape." Including his — but only when you're ready to return them. ASHLEY JOY PARKER

B.I.O.

✱ BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Matthew Hartley, Kimberly Sales

Matthew, 23, works for Navigant Consulting in D.C. Kimberly is a student at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale. Once they marry, they hope to live in Northern Virginia.

- **The Main Event:** A June 13 ceremony performed by the Rev. Todd Schlechty at Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria in front of 200 guests.
- **How They Met:** While they knew each other by sight at church — he plays the bass; she's in the choir — they

didn't meet until they each volunteered to help at a church party. Says Matthew, "I've never been so excited to clean up in my life."

■ **First Date:** Frisbee golf at Burke Lake Park in Virginia.

■ **How He Proposed:** While vacationing in Kiawah, S.C. "At sunset we prayed together about our future. We said, 'Amen,' and I dropped to one knee and asked her to marry me." Kimberly says: "I was shocked and ran around in circles before I realized I hadn't accepted. Then I freaked out and started saying 'Yes!' And then I realized I was saying it over and over like a crazy person, only to start repeating 'Put it on me!'"

■ **When He Knew:** "In Ocean City in May 2008, Kimberly convinced me to run around the beach with her during a hurricane-like storm. I realized that she puts the color into my world."

"[That's when] I realized that she puts the color into my world."



Hans Huber, Christine Kohlmeier

Hans, 39, is a policy adviser at the Department of the Treasury. Christine, 29, is associate director for fundraising volunteers at Georgetown University. They live in Logan Circle.

■ **The Main Event:** The couple will be married in the Willard InterContinental hotel's Crystal Ballroom on March 28.

■ **How He Proposed:** On a trip to St. Michaels, Md., to celebrate their second anniversary, Hans gave Christine a card. "When I opened it, I just read what Hans wrote. I went back to look at it and on the front was a boy and girl. Inside it said: 'Could their smiles be any bigger? Congratulations on your engagement!' I looked up, and there was Hans with the ring!"

■ **Location:** "We are really excited to be getting married at the Willard. ... It's somewhere we can always go back to and visit."

■ **Personal Touch:** "We consider ourselves to be somewhat 'foodies,' so our tables will be named after different restaurants of significance to us: the places where we had our first date and birthday dinners, and where our parents met," Christine says.

After-School Special

Resolved to enroll in the University of Maryland School of Architecture, **JONATHAN HEALEY**, 28, attended an open house in 2005. And once he set eyes on **COLLEEN GOVE**, 27, the grad student leading his tour, he knew he was in the right place. "There was a connection right away," he recalls, "albeit through about 100 other people, not to mention the fact she didn't know me."

The semester began, and with classes came parties. Jonathan was delighted to spy Colleen in the crowd. With encouragement from a mutual friend, he asked her to join him at a fundraiser for his alma mater, Grace Episcopal School, at the American Film Institute. Colleen remembers it as "the old people's prom! We were the youngest people by 20 years."

After dinner, they saw "Pride and Prejudice." Colleen says she went home and "called my old roommate and told her, 'I think I just kissed the man I'm going to marry.'" Indeed, she had, and the couple will marry May 29 at the Avon Old Farms Hotel near Hartford, Conn. KATE GIBBS (EXPRESS)



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